

## Health worsens of Salloum Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The health of a group of Palestinians trapped for more than a year on the Libyan-Egyptian border at Al Salloum is worsening and 21 are seriously ill, according to a report released Sunday by a Palestinian refugee group. The East Jerusalem-based Palestinian Diaspora and Refugee Centre said three of the Palestinian expelled by Libya but barred from entering Egypt were in critical condition from various illnesses. The centre's report, based on interviews with relatives of the trapped men as well as officials from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Doctors Without Border humanitarian group, said the refugees lacked adequate shelter, water and medical care. "These refugees' families are desperate, all their attempts to convince Egyptian authorities let their relatives into the country have been fruitless," the author of the report told AFP on Sunday on condition he not be named.

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## GID, Air Force congratulate King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received General Intelligence Department (GID) Director General Samih Bakki and senior GID officers who congratulated the King on his birthday and offered him a token gift on the occasion. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended the audience. The King also received Royal Jordanian Air Force Chief of Staff Mohammed Ababneh and senior air force officers who presented the monarch with a token gift on his birthday. Attending the meeting were Crown Prince Hassan, HRH Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh.

## Qatari foreign minister to visit Gaza

CAIRO (AFP) — Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jasssem Al Thani is to visit the Gaza Strip on Monday for talks with Palestinian officials, the Qatari embassy in Cairo said on Sunday. He is to travel to the Gaza Strip from the Egyptian border town of Al Arish, the embassy said.

## Family of crash victim refuses to claim body

DUBAI (AP) — The family of the sole Saudi passenger on the Saudi Arabian Airlines involved in last week's mid-air disaster over India have refused to claim the body, saying they do not recognise it, a newspaper reported Sunday. The wife of Majdi Al-Khouri, the only Saudi passenger on the Saudi Arabian Airlines flight, says the body does not have her husband's distinguishing marks, the daily Al Sharq Al Awsat said. The Saudi-owned newspaper said the corpse had been placed in a hospital pending a more positive identification.

## Pakistan police arrest ex-spy chief

KARACHI (R) — Police arrested Pakistan's former intelligence chief on Sunday in connection with the murder of the younger brother of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the official APP news agency said. Masood Sharif, former director-general of the State Intelligence Bureau, was being held by Sindh province police as a suspect in the shooting of Murtaza Bhutto, APP said. The estranged brother of the former premier died along with seven associates in a gun battle with police on Sept. 20. Police alleged Murtaza was killed in crossfire as they shot back in self-defence after his guards opened fire on them.

## Knesset panel rebuffs Netanyahu on budget

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Knesset finance committee on Sunday rejected the government's draft budget for 1997 because of planned cutbacks in welfare payments to families with dependent children. The budget drawn up by the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for imposing strict eligibility requirements on families receiving the child support payments, measures which would have cut \$260 million per year from the welfare budget. "I would not order such cutbacks, especially after the release of figures on poverty in Israel," said committee chairman Michael Kleiner, referring to a report issued last week showing a sharp increase in the number of children living below the poverty line.

## King, in speech from Throne, to stress separation of powers



By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday convening Parliament for its fourth and last ordinary session before its term ends in October next year. His Majesty King Hussein will open the session on Tuesday with the customary speech from the Throne.

In that speech, which was discussed and approved by the Council of Ministers, as it is effectively its policy statement to Parliament, the King will outline the government's programme of action. "The speech will focus mainly on the government's political programme rather than go into details of the socio-economic agenda for the coming period," a senior official had told the Jordan Times.

"But one of the most important points in the speech will be the expression of His Majesty's intention to assert the separation of powers among the three estates of government," a senior Cabinet member said.

"In the speech the King will not unveil a plan to introduce (the so-called Norwegian law) which prevents deputies from retaining their parliamentary seats upon becoming ministers," the Cabinet member told the Jordan Times. "His Majesty will just express his and the government's preference to move in that direction for now. His message will be clear in that regard."

Officials and parliamentarians interviewed by the Jordan Times explained that there was nothing in the Constitution to stop the introduction of the "Norwegian law" — that it is totally within the King's powers to introduce it and that the time for the change is not now, but rather the best timing would be close to the elections next year.

Whether it will be this government or this prime minister who will make the "Norwegian law" effective, a reshuffle in Abdul Karim Kabariti's government or a new government that does not include deputies is expected to take place soon. The 22 ministers who are also deputies in the current government have, for the most part, expressed their wishes to re-run for parliamentary elections next year and are therefore expected to resign from the Cabinet. Since the introduction of democracy to the Kingdom in 1989, controversy over the issue sparked with some politicians calling for effective separation between the executive and legislative authorities through the introduction of the "Norwegian law."

## Israeli demand for 'hot pursuit' main snag in Hebron agreement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian and Israeli negotiators scheduled talks in self-ruled Jericho for Sunday night to try to sew up a long-delayed Israeli troop pullback from the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinian officials said.

## Israel preparing 5-year plan to tighten grip on Jerusalem

THE ISRAELI government is drawing up a major development plan for Arab East Jerusalem designed to strengthen its claims of sovereignty over the Arab sector of the Holy City, an Israeli newspaper reports on Sunday.

The five-year plan would include opening a second police station and various government offices in the east as well as improving schooling, building new sewage systems and upgrading roads in the sector, the independent daily Haaretz said. "Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and it should look the same in all its parts, east and west," a government official was quoted as saying about the plan.

The project was being drawn up by a ministerial commission headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and is to be drafted by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, the official said.

It would not be accepted even by the Palestinians. It will trigger new violence, acts of reprisals," Mr. Mubarak said, according to an advance copy of the interview received by AFP on Sunday.

"Cooperation between the two parties is preferable to this hot pursuit. I am sure that the Palestinians will pledge to pursue themselves anyone who has committed acts of violence," the Egyptian president said.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have failed since early October to push forward stalled talks on the long-delayed Israeli withdrawal from Hebron.

Israel wants wide rights for its soldiers to enter Palestinian areas of the town to hunt down suspected Palestinian militants and prevent attacks against 420 Jewish settlers in the town.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat earlier said that the latest round of negotiations on Saturday failed to make progress, blaming Israel of holding up the talks with its demand for "hot pursuit."

Mr. Mubarak stressed that the PNA should be allowed to look after security, stressing "stability is in its interest."

"We want a real peace in which the Palestinians would recover their rights and deal with security on their territories. Otherwise it will be a return to terrorism and neither Israelis nor Palestinians will be able to stop it," he said.

The last round of talks on Thursday, attended by U.S. ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk, failed to bring the sides closer together on the issue.

"If Israel does not give up asking for the right to re-enter Palestinian areas after handing them over to us, then we will not have an agreement," said one senior Palestinian security official. "Their demand is a violation of our jurisdiction and powers on our territories."

Mr. Erakat said he met Saturday night in Jericho with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's legal adviser, Yitzhak Molkho, but "there was no progress in the talks."

Speaking to Palestine Radio, Mr. Erakat accused Israel of holding up the talks with its demand for "hot pursuit" in Hebron, adding: "The Israelis simply do not realise that an agreement must be reached quickly."

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INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY: Samira Watad, 28, an Israeli Arab woman from Baqa'a Al Gharabiya, wears a hairpiece representing the Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's holiest shrines located in Jerusalem, as she walks down the runway on Sunday wearing a traditional Palestinian dress during a beauty contest held on the occasion of the Palestinian Independence Day. The Palestinian beauty contest was organised in order to select a Palestinian woman who would be crowned "Miss Palestine" and represent the Palestinians in international beauty pageants (Reuters photo)

## King receives Saudi greetings, phones Sheikh Zayed

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday received a cable from Saudi King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz congratulating him on his birthday. King Fahd wished King Hussein continued good health and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also received cables of congratulations from Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifah Ben Salman Al Khalifah and United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

## King phones UAE leader

King Hussein on Sunday phoned Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and congratulated him on his speedy recovery and on his safe return to his homeland.

The King and Sheikh Zayed discussed "bilateral relations and recent developments on the regional and international scene" in the telephone conversation, the Jordan News agency, Petra said.

The 79-year-old UAE president returned home recently after a neck operation at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. In the United States and two months convalescing.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bent Al Hussein, who is on a visit to the UAE, on Sunday visited Sheikh Zayed and congratulated him on his recovery. She also conveyed King Hussein's greetings to Sheikh Zayed and his wishes for a speedy recovery.

Sheikh Zayed expressed his gratitude and appreciation for His Majesty and his continuous concern for his health.

## King cables Sultan Qaboos

King Hussein on Sunday sent a cable to Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman congratulating him on the Sultanate's 26th national day.

The King wished Sultan Qaboos good health and the Omani people a prosperous life.

## Israeli denies spying; Egyptian said to confess

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Israeli Arab accused of spying for his homeland insisted on his innocence this weekend, while the Egyptian he allegedly was dealing with acknowledged guilt, state prosecutors said Sunday.

The statements were made on Saturday when the two were brought together by investigators, said the prosecutors, who briefed reporters on condition they not be named.

Neither man was represented by an attorney, they said.

The Israeli consul in Egypt, Joshu Gabbay, visited Azzam, an Israeli embassy spokesman told AFP.

Lior Ben Dor said Mr. Gabbay, who had been on vacation in Israel, went to Tora prison south of Cairo to check on Azzam's health and see that he is treated well during his detention.

Azzam, a Druze employed in Cairo by an Israeli textile company, was arrested Nov. 6, Egyptian Emad Ismail, arrested four days earlier, was accused of being paid to spy for Israel in the same affair.

Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammad Bassiouni, said Cairo officials informed Israeli authorities of the matter Thursday.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was cited by the government press Saturday as saying that the affair has been turned over to the judicial authorities.

"We don't intervene in judicial affairs," he said. Mr. Mubarak told Israeli Television Thursday that the affair could be settled by discreet contacts with Israel.

"If we could choose, we would create some distance from the television cameras. The Israelis have arrested Egyptians (suspected of spying) in the past, and we haven't shrieked at the top of our lungs," he said.

Azzam was questioned for six hours Saturday along with the Egyptian suspect, prosecutors said. Ismail claims Azzam recruited him as a spy and taught him how to send his reports to Israel. Egyptian newspapers said the procedure involved "invisible ink."

Investigators were preparing a charge sheet and an indictment was expected in the next few days. A trial date would be set after that.





Leprosy and tuberculosis victims wait in line for winter supplies distributed by the United Nations at a war-torn building in the west of Kabul on Sunday. As the bitterly cold winter approaches, with temperatures falling to 20 degrees Celsius below freezing, relief agencies throughout the country are stepping up their drive to supply cold weather essentials to Afghan's needy (Reuters photo)

## Kabul facing food crisis — ICRC

KABUL (AFP) — Foreign aid agencies said Sunday they were concerned whether their relief programmes would be able to feed Kabul's burgeoning population of poor and needy during the coming winter.

"Food is still the main problem in Kabul," commented Joerg Stoecklin, press officer of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"The idea is not to provide total needs, just a supplement. But the big question remains — is this enough?" Mr. Stoecklin said.

He said the Red Cross and other relief agencies had a two-monthly distribution system which provided a ration equivalent to half the estimated food requirement for an average family of seven.

The Red Cross spokesman stated that the war-weary population of Kabul — estimated at 800,000 to 1.2 million — was not facing imminent

famine, but a grave crisis due to the high price of food.

According to Red Cross and other agency statistics, at least 25 per cent of Kabul's population currently receive supplementary food rations; another 28,000-odd beneficiaries receive subsidised bread from special bakeries.

"The problem is not the lack of food, but the prohibitive cost," Mr. Stoecklin explained.

Since the Taliban militia captured Kabul Sept. 27, the military blockade was lifted and the bazaars became well-stocked with food items of every description, but even basic items are still too expensive for the average family.

To give just an impression of the magnitude of the coming winter problem, Mr. Stoecklin selected examples of costs for what the Red Cross considers to be the three main essential requirements — wheat, flour, cooking oil and coal. Assuming a family actu-

ally bought the equivalent of the "half-ration" that the Red Cross supplied for free, Mr. Stoecklin said they would be bankrupted.

"If they tried to buy just these three things the cost would amount to roughly a bit more than two monthly salaries," Mr. Stoecklin stated.

An "average salary" is what aid agencies consider a civil servant is paid — if he is paid — which is about 120,000 Afghanis (\$61 per month), Mr. Stoecklin noted. For example the Red Cross issues 10 kilograms of cooking oil as a half-ration every two months.

To make up the estimated full monthly ration a family must then buy another five kilograms of cooking oil, which costs at present about 100,000 Afghanis.

Similarly 50 kilograms of wheat flour is doled as a two-monthly "half-ration", which means 25 kilograms a month must be purchased at the cost of another 100,000

Afghanis.

Coal is proportionately much less expensive, but added to the price of cooking oil and wheat flour the total cost was way beyond the means of the poorest families in Kabul.

"And here we are speaking only of essential needs," stressed Mr. Stoecklin.

Included in the normal yearly Red Cross food-aid package are also rice, sugar, beans, and as a special winter supplement candles, plastic and soap are added.

The list of needs goes on, and this does not take into account emergency needs like medicine, which local doctors prescribe in copious amounts for even the most minor ailments.

It would currently cost a family of seven 315,000 Afghanis a month just to feed each person with one loaf of Afghan bread, three times a day.

"Faced with these hardships, war is something Afghans can well do without," mused one expatriate aid-worker.

## Iraq blames merchants for rising food prices

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The government on Sunday accused merchants of adding to the woes of sanctions-hit Iraqis by raising food prices, while the merchants blamed the increases on the long-delayed oil-for-food deal.

"Some merchants are playing a destructive role by raising prices instead of helping to ease the effects of the embargo," the official Al Qadissiyah news-

paper said.

"These fluctuations are making chaos and uncertainty dominate the market, where the fear of an increase in the dollar has provoked an increase in the price of goods," it said.

The Iraqi dinar surged meanwhile against the dollar, with \$1 trading for 1,500 dinars compared to 1,700 dinars earlier in the day, said dealers who blamed the surge on specu-

lators seeking to make quick money.

The prices of basic foods like sugar, rice and eggs climbed higher, with a kilogramme of sugar fetching 750 dinars, compared to 650 dinars last week. Merchants said the price rises were caused by the delay in the oil-for-food deal which was signed in May but has not been implemented.

Under the deal, Iraq can

sell \$2 million of oil over six months in order to raise money to buy food and medicine as well as defray U.N. costs and contribute to a war reparations fund stemming from the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

U.N. officials must still set up a system to monitor the oil sales and distribution of supplies.

Oil and trade sanctions were imposed after the invasion.

## Christian jailed for marrying Muslim converts to Islam

DUBAI (AP) — A Lebanese Christian jailed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for marrying a Muslim woman has converted to Islam to escape harsher punishment, his friend and a prison official said Sunday.

Elie Dib Ghalib "went to the courthouse and converted months ago," said Captain Mohammad Ali Suhairi, head of the central prison in the eastern oasis city of Al Ain, where Mr. Ghalib has been held for nearly a year.

Mr. Ghalib, a hotel manager, was arrested in December after the parents of his wife, Mona Junaidi, alerted authorities that their daughter had married a non-Muslim.

Under Islamic law, in force in the UAE, a Muslim woman is not allowed to marry a non-Muslim unless he converts to Islam. If he does not convert, the marriage is considered void under Islamic law, and the parties can be imprisoned and flogged for adultery.

Apparently Mr. Ghalib had converted before he was sentenced by a religious court in Al Ain last month to a year in prison and 39 lashes. The court ruled that the couple's marriage last year — before he converted — was invalid and that their relationship was immoral.

Attorney General Ahmad Abdullah Al Mullah said that the lashes had not been administered and the verdict was still open to appeal.

The human rights group Amnesty International has called Mr. Ghalib a prisoner of conscience and appealed to authorities in the UAE for his release.

Mr. Ghalib converted to

Islam because he "had been advised that it was the best move to make," said a friend who visited Mr. Ghalib regularly in prison. The friend spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear what will happen to Mr. Ghalib next. Mr. Mullah, the attorney general, has said he could be freed next month if his one-year sentence is calculated on the basis of his arrest in December.

Souda Hakeemy, a sister of Ms. Junaidi, said from her home in Cairo, Egypt, that she feared the UAE authorities would not be sympathetic to Mr. Ghalib.

"From the beginning when he was put in prison, he told them he was willing to convert to Islam," she said. "But they did not want to hear about it. The authorities there are against him."

Mr. Ghalib and Ms. Junaidi, 25, were married in Lebanon in June 1995. Inter-faith marriages are not allowed in Lebanon, so it is unclear whether Ms. Junaidi had converted to Christianity for the marriage to be possible. Under Islamic law, a Muslim who leaves the faith faces the death sentence.

After the marriage, Mr. Ghalib went back to his work in the UAE, while Ms. Junaidi returned to her studies in the United States. Ms. Hakeemy said Ms. Junaidi was studying computers and business in Florence, South Carolina.

Ibrahim Al Eedami, a judge in Al Ain, said that Mr. Ghalib would have to remarry Ms. Junaidi, a UAE national, for the two to be considered husband and wife.

## Mideast politics surfaces as India hosts Miss World

BANGALORE (R) — The troubled Miss World beauty contest in India has brought Miss Israel and Miss Lebanon together, but not in the same picture, the Israeli contestant told Reuters in Bangalore on Sunday.

The two women are the only contestants from the Middle East among 88 from all over the world gathered in this southern Indian city, where Miss World will be crowned on Nov. 23.

"She (Miss Lebanon) does not want to be photographed with me because it would lead to problems for her back in Lebanon," said Israel's Miss World contestant Talia Leventhal.

"I have no problems being seen with her, but she has a problem," Ms. Leventhal said, adding that the two of them might have spoken more, but for the language barrier.

Miss Lebanon, Nisrine Nasr, was unavailable for comment.

The pageant has been dogged by controversy since organisers announced it would be staged in India and members of a militant Indian women's group have threatened to wreck the show's finale on November 23 by staging suicide protests.

A 25-year-old man killed himself by self-immolation on Thursday in Madurai, some 432 kilometres away from Bangalore in a protest against the show.

Ms. Leventhal, a 1.8 metre professional model, says she will join the Israeli army, but not because she has to.

"We have a choice, but I would like to go through the training just like any other woman in Israel."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Moroccan union says police attacked members

RABAT (AFP) — Regional representatives of a Moroccan union said they were violently attacked by police as they tried to enter union offices where a sit-in against unemployment was being held, a statement received by AFP Sunday said.

The Moroccan Labour Union said that a police officer known as a "serious assault" on three of its leaders Saturday, the statement said. The union has lodged a legal complaint, and has called for an official enquiry into the police officer's behaviour. It has called on the government to respect "union freedoms and the right to strike." Some 1,200 unemployed from all over the country, who are seeking their first job, have been staging a sit-in since Oct. 24 at the union's regional headquarters in the capital Rabat. They have appealed to the government to find them employment. The union's headquarters are under close police guard, preventing the strikers coming and going.

### Turkish-Kurdish fighting claims 11 lives

BINGÖL (AP) — Troops killed eight Kurdish rebels in a clash near this southeastern city, the Anatolia news agency said Sunday. Three soldiers were also killed in the clash which occurred on Saturday, it said. More than 21,000 people have died in the conflict since the guerrillas began fighting for autonomy in the region in 1984.

### S. African officials hold talks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — A South African foreign ministry delegation is holding talks with Iraqi officials in Baghdad, diplomats said on Sunday. Malcolm Ferguson, head of the Middle East office at the South African Foreign Ministry, told Reuters his team's visit is the first by South African officials to Iraq. He declined to give details on the aim of the talks but Iraqi government newspapers reported they were focusing on the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

### Antique chest seized in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — An antique chest covered with semiprecious stones and gold housing a miniature model cathedral has been seized from traffickers who tried to sell it. Egyptian Culture Minister Farouk Hosni said Sunday. Three Egyptians on Saturday tried to sell the box and its Coptic artefacts from 580 AD to a dealer north of Cairo for one million Egyptian pounds (\$340,000), said General Mohammad Al Meshawi, the police official who handles antiquities. The box was encrusted with mother of pearl and gold and the top bore two crosses, one in gold and the other in silver. Gen. Meshawi said. It contained another box covered with velvet which held the miniature cathedral made of ebony and decorated with amber and a golden cross. The cathedral's sides bore Coptic inscriptions. Six icons showing the annunciation and the birth of Christ were found inside the box. Gen. Meshawi said. The Coptic, or Egyptian Orthodox Christians, are one of the world's oldest Christian communities.

### Palestinian accused of embezzlement is slain

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Palestinian accused of fraud and embezzlement of funds from the Lebanese Finance Ministry was killed Sunday during a shootout with security agents who came to arrest him, officials said. Farid Hanna Mussalli, one of six people charged in the case, fired on the agents who came to his home at Ashqout in the Kesrouan Mountains north of Beirut at dawn, the officials said. The agents fired back, killing him. They said Mr. Mussalli was accused of falsifying tax stamps and of involvement in other fraudulent schemes. Finance Minister Fouad Saniora said Friday that nearly \$2.5 million was embezzled from his ministry and that tax stamps had been faked, without specifying their value. Four other people have been arrested in connection Egypt forces plane to land between Zaire and Israel.

### Egypt forces plane to land between Zaire and Israel

CAIRO (R) — A Russian Ilyushin-76 plane on hire to the government of Zaire entered Egyptian airspace without permission on Sunday and the Egyptian authorities forced it to land at Cairo airport, airport sources said. The plane, which is fitted to carry passengers, was en route from Zaire to Ben Gurion Airport in Israel with a crew of 10 and no passengers aboard, they said. The plane was expected to resume its journey after paying a fine for breaking civil aviation regulations, they added.

### Kuwait ministries' complex evacuated

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti authorities evacuated a busy government complex in a hoax bomb scare, the second in a week, newspapers reported on Sunday. The daily said the ministries' complex in central Kuwait City was evacuated on Saturday after receiving three telephone warnings of a bomb. Earlier in the week the Sultan Centre Supermarket, used by many Western residents, was evacuated in a similar scare. No bombs were found in either case, security sources said. In late October the U.S. embassy warned American citizens to exercise particular caution in light of reported threats against U.S. interests in Kuwait.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 Muppet Show  
14:30 Comedy — Dad's Army  
15:00 Varieties — L'Intégrale  
15:30 Doc. — Traveling Gourmet  
16:00 Nature's Inventions  
16:30 Comedy — Hey Dad!  
17:00 News Flash  
17:01 Destiny Ridge  
18:00 Magazine — Cassiopee  
19:00 Le Journal  
19:15 Magazine — Ciné Sur Ciné  
19:30 News Headlines  
19:35 Rosanne  
20:00 Documentary — Disaster Chronicle  
20:30 Cinema, Cinema  
21:10 The Lazarus Man  
22:00 News in English  
22:25 Children of the Dust  
23:15 Bodies of Evidence

### PRAYER TIMES

04:41 Fajr  
06:02 (Sunrise) Duha  
11:20 Dhuhur  
14:15 Asr  
16:39 Maghreb  
18:00 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh. Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.

### St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

### De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622666

### Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

### Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

### Amman International Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

### German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

### Church of Nazareth Tel. 675641.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

### English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Unstable weather conditions will continue to prevail. Skies will be cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers and winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas choppy.

Min/Max. temp. Amman.....12/19

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba.....17/24  
Deserts.....13/21  
Jordan Valley.....18/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 19, Aqaba 24 Humidity readings: Amman 72 per cent, Aqaba 75 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalil Al Tustug.....757253  
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim.....830432  
Dr. Bahjat Bader.....832642  
Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi.....595542  
Ferdows pharmacy.....778336  
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy.....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu.....281484  
Al Quds pharmacy.....( )  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Nabhan.....955743  
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111  
Civil Defence Department.....661111

### Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

630341  
Civil Defence Emergency.....199  
Recue Pkce.....192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade.....617101  
Blood Bank.....775121  
Highway Police.....843402  
Traffic Police.....896390  
Public Security Dept.....630321  
Amal Hospital.....605800  
Price Complaints.....661176  
Water & Sewage Complaints.....697467  
Amman Municipality Complaints.....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121  
Overseas Calls.....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs.....623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101  
Jordan Television.....773111  
Radio Jordan.....774111  
Water Authority.....680100  
Electricity Authority.....815615  
Electric Power Co.....636381  
RJ Flight Information.....08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### Shmeisani Hospital.....669131

University Hospital.....845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital.....6672779  
The Islamic, Abdali.....66612637  
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....7771013  
Al-Bashir.....77511126  
Army, Marka.....89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital.....602240/50  
Amal Hospital.....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199

### ZARQA: Govt. Hospital

Zarqa.....(09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital.....(09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital.....(09)909990

### IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital

Princess Basma Hospital.....(02)775555  
Greek Catholic Hospital.....(02)772725  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital.....(02)247100

### AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital

Princess Haya Hospital.....(03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) informa-

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
08:35 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
08:55 .....Damascus (RJ)  
09:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
09:50 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 .....Beirut (RJ)  
16:20 .....Cairo (RJ)  
16:25 .....London (RJ)  
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:45 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
21:15 Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
22:20 .....Casablanca (RJ)  
03:40 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

### Other Flights

05:00 .....Khartoum (SD)  
09:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
11:30 .....Doha (Q7)  
12:40 .....Bahrain (GF)  
15:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
21:00 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:40 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
22:45 .....Athens, Beirut (OA)  
00:30 .....London (BA)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 .....Beirut (RJ)  
09:50 .....Casablanca (RJ)  
11:00 .....Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
12:15 .....Cairo (RJ)  
12:15 .....London (RJ)  
12:30 .....Frankfurt (RJ)  
16:30 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
20:15 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:00 .....Bangkok (add) (RJ)  
21:00 .....Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
21:15 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:45 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
23:00 .....Damascus (RJ)  
05:45 .....Marka, Aqaba (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:30 .....Khartoum (SD)  
07:35 .....Beirut, London (BA)  
07:45 .....Beirut (ME)  
10:20 .....Cairo (MS)  
13:00 .....Beirut, Doha (Q7)  
13:30 .....Bahrain (GF)  
15:50 .....Vienna (OS)  
22:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:55 .....Damascus, Paris (AF)  
02:30 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 .....Beirut, Athens (OA)  
07:35 Damascus, London (BA)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:50 Marka Airport (from

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple.....700/500  
Banana.....550/550  
Banana (imported).....820/650  
Cabbage.....80/40  
Carrot.....300/200  
Cauliflower.....240/180  
Cucumber (large).....150/100  
Cucumber (small).....260/180  
Eggplant.....130/80  
Garlic.....700/500  
Grapes.....430/250  
Guava.....500/300  
Lemon.....370/180  
Marrow (large).....150/100  
Marrow (small).....250/180  
Onion (green).....260/160  
Onion (dry).....150/100  
Olive (green).....400/400  
Olive (black).....700/500  
Orange.....550/350  
Pear.....620/420  
Pepper (hot).....260/200  
Pepper (sweet).....230/160  
Potato.....360/200  
Spinach.....240/100  
Spring Bean.....600/400  
Tomato.....320/220

### QAIA HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman.....8:00 am, every Monday  
Arr. Damascus.....5:00 pm, every Monday  
Dep. Damascus.....7:30 am, every Sunday  
Arr. Amman.....5:00 pm, every Sunday

### Waltzing A

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

### MAN — On the occasion of

the King Hussein's birth-

day, the patronage of

His Majesty Queen Noor, the

of Jordan and the Austrian

ambassy in Amman, in coopera-

tion with Freddy for Music, have

organized the Austrian "High Strung

Ensemble" to perform in

Kingdom.

A unique concert is scheduled

for tonight at 8:00 p.m. at the

Real Cultural Centre (RCC).

The programme will be donated to the

of Jordan's Village Association

to become the trademark of Aus-

trian music in the world-Viennese

by the programme were com-

posed by the celebrated composer

conductor, Robert Stolz.

Austria's "Last Waltz

was born in 1880 and died

in 1975. His work, however,

has more than just

many faces. He has written numerous



## Queen opens Christmas and Ramadan exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday opened the annual fall exhibition of Jordan River Designs (JRD), organised by Jordan River for Development Projects (JRDP) at the JRD Showroom in Jabal Amman, a Royal Court statement said.

The exhibition, entitled "A New Festive Season," celebrates Christmas and Ramadan with innovative gift items which include gift baskets with herbs, incense, raisins, jam, chocolate, pudding and candles as well as ceramic and textile Christmas tree ornaments, napkins, cushions and a wide selection of quilts in warm fall colour combinations, the statement said.

The JRD Showrooms also encompass a traditional Arabic "madafa" and "souq," which display home furnishings and accessories for Ramadan.

JRD, which was established by the Save the Children Fund in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in 1987, has been transferred to the Jordan River for

Development Projects (JRDP), a non-profit organisation under the presidency of HRH Princess Rania Abdullah, whose objectives are to "improve the financial, cultural, health, social, educational, technical skills and well-being of the community at large."

JRDP's projects also include prevention of child abuse and youth employment, the statement said.

Since its inception, JRD has aided more than 1,604 women who have received roughly \$596,165 in wages, thereby enabling them to contribute to 36 per cent of their household income.

JRD, which began as an income-generating project for women in East Amman, plans to expand to other communities in Jordan.

The Queen was received by JRDP President HRH Princess Rania Abdullah, JRD Project Manager Hana Mitri Shahin, members of the JRDP Board and beneficiaries of the project.

## Minister inaugurates health centre in Madaba

MADABA (J.T.) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh and Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Lewis Lucke Sunday inaugurated a maternal and child health centre in Madaba, 30 kilometres south of Amman, according to a USAID statement.

The Madaba centre is one of ten currently being upgraded to become a 'model centre' under the quality assurance component of the \$7 million Family Health Services Project.

The centre will provide services to aid in the joint objective of increasing modern family planning

methods.

The first centre was inaugurated three years ago in Salt and is now, according to USAID, functioning very well.

The Salt experience encouraged the expansion of the model centre concept to the 12 governorates of Jordan, the organisation said.

The Madaba centre is the first centre to start functioning under this expansion strategy, it added.

Addressing an inauguration ceremony audience, Dr. Bataineh outlined the different services to be offered at the centre such as double immunisations and

family planning advice.

He stated that the centre will be attended to by a gynaecologist, a maternity specialist and a paediatrician assisted by a staff of qualified nurses, adding that the centre was the fruit of health cooperation between USAID and Jordan.

Mr. Lucke also addressed the meeting, expressing his optimism that the centre will help improve the health of local women and children and contribute to Ministry of Health family planning programmes.

## ILO intends to assist vocational programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has declared its intention to assist the Kingdom in the implementation of programmes designed to promote industrial and vocational training. Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Director General Ali Nasrallah announced Sunday.

Subsequent to an international labour conference in Geneva, Mr. Nasrallah stated that the ILO is helping numerous Third World countries realise similar programmes which include familiarising young trainees with vocational training and establishing new vocational training centres while promoting the existing ones.

The VTC will soon introduce these programmes which target secondary schools, community colleges and individuals wishing to start their own industrial or handicraft projects, he said.

The ILO, jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is currently implementing an industrial guidance project in Jordan aimed at helping smaller size businesses develop, Mr. Nasrallah stated.

In Jordan, small-size industries account for 89 per cent of the total industrial organisations and employ nearly 60 per cent of the national workforce, the director general

noted.

The week-long Geneva conference included nearly 50 countries and covered issues related to vocational training, the role of industrial installations in creating new jobs and training manpower, the investment climate necessary to attract investors to industrial projects, human resource development, procuring help from major corporations to assist the smaller scale projects and acquisition of expertise from advanced nations, he said.

Auxiliary to the conference, Mr. Nasrallah held talks with ILO officials to secure increased support for VTC projects with an emphasis on those designed to modernise and upgrade training programmes.

He stated that ILO officials have requested that the VTC send the ILO headquarters a report outlining its priorities to be studied previous to any provision of aid.

The VTC director general also met with Swiss officials who have been supervising enhancement of the VTC centre's labours and he confirmed that both sides agreed to send teams of Swiss experts to the Kingdom to help Jordanians install and operate machinery used for training procedures.

He said that the VTC is revising and modernising its programmes to better cater to the needs of the labour market in Jordan.

## Tueimeh outlines new non-NATO ally status

AMMAN (J.T.) — Head of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Lower House of Parliament Fawzi Tueimeh Sunday welcomed an American administration decision to consider Jordan as a major non-NATO ally of the United States.

The decision entitles the Kingdom to a "priority consideration" for military aid and equipment.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency Petra, Dr. Tueimeh explained that when Jordan signed the 1994 peace treaty with Israel it did not obligate conditions, such as acquisition of U.S. assistance, but rather the treaty was signed with the backing of the majority of parliament members as a matter of conviction in the benefits of peace.

He added the peace process has returned property and water resources to the Kingdom.

The treaty, Dr. Tueimeh said, is a "link in a chain of stages" within the framework of a comprehensive and lasting settlement.

He maintained that the American decision does not imply that Jordan is entering any military alliances, but rather is a means to provide the armed forces with sophisticated weaponry.

U.S. President Bill Clinton Friday named Jordan a major non-NATO ally of the United States and, according to a State Department deputy spokesman, the new status makes Jordan eligible for priority consideration for the transfer of excess defence articles, the use of already appropriated military assistance funds for procurement through commercial leases, the stockpiling of

U.S. military material and the purchase of depleted uranium munitions.

"Jordan looks forward to further backing from its friends in the European Union and Japan in addition to the United States for assistance in implementing its economic and development programmes and in dealing with economic issues," Dr. Tueimeh said.

"[We hope] that Mr. Clinton's decision will be followed by other initiatives to help Jordan manage its debts and provide technical, scientific and economic assistance to the Kingdom," he added.

Dr. Tueimeh said that "the country has shouldered heavy responsibilities [in the context of the Middle East peace process] but now in the peace era, the Kingdom hopes to enjoy security and stability."

## Palestine Affairs Department releases report

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestine Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry Sunday stated that last month Israeli authorities proceeded with confiscation of Arab lands while the Israeli armed forces and Jewish settlers continued assaults on Palestinians and their property.

In a monthly report covering the situation in the occupied territories, the department said that the continued seclusion of the West Bank and Gaza strip has dealt a heavy blow to the Palestinian economy and caused severe social, medical, educational and agricultural damage to the Palestinian people.

The report quoted statistics by various organisations in Gaza confirming that, since the signing of the Oslo agreements in Sept. 1993, Israeli authorities have confiscated around 290,000 dunums of land and opened 400 kilometres of ring roads around Arab villages in the occupied territories.

Simultaneously, the report stated, the Israelis have continued wide-scale Jewish settlements in Arab lands and proceeded with plans to Judaise the Arab city of Jerusalem.

There has been a steady confiscation of Arab homes in the city's centre, it added.

The department stated that it recently completed a JD122,000 building to serve Palestinians in refugee camps in Jordan whose premises house warehouses, offices, commercial centres, clinics and other agencies.

The report said that since Jan. 1996, the department has distributed JD13 million worth of food assistance to the refugees and other displaced Palestinians.

## Rental cars major culprit in road accidents — seminar

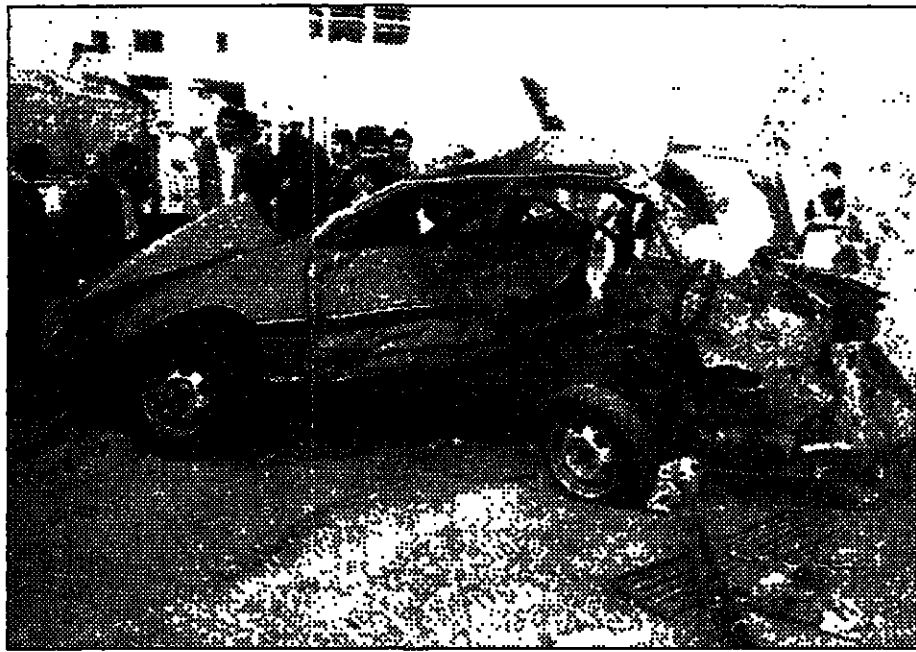
AMMAN (Petra) — "Rental cars have regrettably proved to be a major factor in [the Kingdom's deaths] and statistics show that they have been responsible for 1,272 accidents in the first eight months of 1996, resulting in the deaths of 34 people," President of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSPRA) Mohammad Dabbas stated.

Addressing a symposium entitled "Rental Cars: Problems And Solutions," held at the Jerusalem Hotel, Mr. Dabbas quoted statistics as saying that the Kingdom currently has 13 rental car branches comprising 250 offices and that they operate a combined total of 3,502 cars — a number equivalent to half the taxi cabs in Jordan.

He called on authorities to conduct a study as to the underlying reasons for accidents in the Kingdom that it might be better equipped to procure their solutions.

Mr. Dabbas also suggested the creation of a committee representing the Ministries of Interior, Tourism and Transport as well as the Public Security Department (PSD), the JSPRA and the Society of Rental Car Offices to address the problem.

Also addressing the meeting was President of the Society of Rental Car Offices Suleiman Omeish who stated that



Two cars collide in one of the accidents seen to be becoming an increasing concern in Jordan (file photo)

total investment in the tourism sector in Jordan amounts to approximately JD80 million, making it the second largest sector after hotels.

But, he said, the number of rental car offices has exceeded Jordan's needs, explicating that in winter 30 per cent of the total number of rental cars are utilised, while in summer the rate reaches 70 per cent forcing many offices to close due to high operational costs.

Mr. Omeish also avowed that due to high competition some rental car offices were offering promotion rates other than the officially mandated ones, a practice which, he said, necessitates rigid enforcement of regulations that these offices remain committed to the rates set by the Ministry of Transport.

Colonel Fakhri Iskandar from the PSD charged that the problem should be addressed at the national level, stating that rental cars have been causing increasing numbers of road accidents in the past two years.

He said that although the number of rental cars accounts for one per cent of the total number of cars in the Kingdom, their drivers are responsible for 2.1 per cent of the total number of road accidents and that 34 per cent of all rental cars have been involved in road

accidents.

Calling for urgency in dealing with the issue, Col. Iskandar said that it is incumbent upon the public to extend a helping hand to the police.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat, who had earlier opened the symposium, said that the government is considering increasing fines against those who violate traffic regulations.

He also said that the Prime Ministry is currently examining regulations relating to rental cars but, he maintained, the regulations are irrefutable unless backed by cooperation on the part of everyone concerned.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Unstable weather to affect Kingdom

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology Sunday said that the Kingdom will endure unstable weather conditions for the next four days. Director General of the Department of the Meteorology Amin Karneen stated that a warm and humid front will traverse the country and at times raise dust especially in the south and east. Skies will be cloudy to partly cloudy with possible scattered showers and winds will be south-easterly, moderate and brisk at times. This weather condition will continue to affect Jordan until Wednesday morning when stable, clear weather is expected to return.

### Italian delegation arrives tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation, representing the Italian textile industry, arrives here tomorrow on a several-day visit during which they will meet with Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) officials and present a series of books dedicated to the textile industry to be used in VTC training courses. The delegation will offer five scholarships, ranging between two to three weeks, to VTC students interested in learning more about the technology utilised by the Italian textile industry.

### Mendicant owner of JD40,000

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid Social Development Department in cooperation with security forces arrested a mendicant with JD1,558 on his person, according to Irbid Social Development Department Director Salman Abanda. Investigations revealed that the mendicant, arrested during a campaign launched by the department, had JD40,000 in bank deposits in Irbid, Mr. Abanda said.

### 'Brain-drain' — topic of seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Faisal Gharaibeh Sunday left for Cairo to participate in a four-day symposium on the so-called dilemma of 'brain drain'. The symposium, which starts today and is organised by the Arab League, will discuss the causes of this predicament as well as the means of its prevention. Dr. Gharaibeh will present a report on Jordan's experience and potential negative consequences on the national economy and Arab culture.

## What's Going On

### CONCERT

\* Viennese music and waltzes by the Austrian High-String String Ensemble at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### FILM

\* "Le Chat" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

### LECTURES

\* Lecture on the discovery in the Tyrolian Alps of the 5,300-year old iceman by Prof. Dr. Andreas Lippert at the University of Jordan at 11:00 a.m.  
\* "T.S. Eliot's 'Waste Land'" by Dr. Nicholas Linfield at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Retrospective exhibition by Berlin-based Syrian artist Marwan Kassab-Bachi at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Dec. 10. Also on display are works of contemporary Arabs artists.  
\* Works by Syrian artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. until Nov. 30.  
\* Aspects from the modern Jordanian plastic art by several Jordanian artists entitled "Message" at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 28.  
\* Works by Monkith Sa'id and Bert Hermens entitled "Untitled Diary" at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuheis, until Nov. 21.  
\* Photo panels and mosaics exhibition by German artist Yousa Joest entitled "Petra — A Cosmological Dialogue" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Nov. 30.  
\* Photography exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zaghawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22.  
\* Works by twenty four artists (from Iraq, Holland, Lebanon, Vietnam, Spain, Greece, Curacao, Indonesia, Russia, and Chile) entitled "Hond and Hamer 'Art in Cultural Transmission'" at the Royal Society of Fine Art, Jabal Weibdeh until Nov. 30.  
\* Photo exhibition by Basma Asfour entitled "Doubles-Regards" at the French Cultural Centre, until Nov. 28.

## Waltzing Amman — Austrian ensemble performs tonight

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday and under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan and the Austrian Embassy in Amman, in cooperation with Freddy for Music, have invited the Austrian "High String String Ensemble" to perform in the Kingdom.

A unique concert is scheduled for tonight at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). Proceeds will be donated to the SOS Children's Village.

The group will interpret what has become the trademark of Austrian music in the world-Viennese waltzes. Most of the pieces selected for the programme were composed by the celebrated composer and conductor, Robert Stolz.

Stolz, Austria's "Last Waltz King" was born in 1880 and died in 1975. His work, however, encompasses more than just waltzes. He has written numerous

operettas and songs, most of which are now considered masterpieces. The versatility of his talent let Robert Stolz explore styles as different from Viennese traditional music as the American fox-trot and jazz.

Extremely popular in his lifetime, both at home and abroad, Stolz became the direct heir of the Strauss legacy while preserving an unmistakable, personal musical character.

A radio programme presented by Marcel Prawy (who gave a memorable presentation on Johann Strauss at the RCC in November 1994) paid tribute to Robert Stolz and his work. In the very informative and entertaining programme one can listen to recordings of Stolz music and song, by artists like Gundula Janowitz, Jan Peerce, Maurice Chevalier, Nana Mouskouri and Petula Clark.

The High String String Ensemble is comprised of: Klaus Eberle and Anselm Schoufer on violin, Bernhard Holzner on viola, Ingrid Vollmann on cello, and Irmatrud

liberie-Hardt on double bass. The quintet has become famous and particularly known for their talent at conveying "the charms of Vienna" and performing "eternal evergreens." They play an "unobtrusive quality of music that goes directly to the heart."

The ensemble was founded in 1992 and has since made countless public and television appearances. Their recent CD received highly positive press reviews and the group is particularly proud to introduce a new programme entitled "101 years of Cinema" including favourites from the good old days.

Tonight's programme at the RCC will feature pieces with titles such as "Blond or Brunette, I Love All Women," "I Am Happy When The Sun Shines" and "Two Hearts in Quarter Time."

QALAHUAZ RAILWAY  
Dep. Amman — 8:00 a.m.  
Arr. Damascus — 10:00 a.m.  
Dep. Damascus — 10:00 a.m.  
Arr. Amman — 12:00 p.m.

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices  
Apple...  
Banana...  
Banana (imported)...  
Cabbage...  
Carrot...  
Cauliflower...  
Cucumber (large)...  
Cucumber (small)...  
Eggplant...  
Garlic...  
Grapes...  
Lemon...  
Lemon (large)...  
Lemon (small)...  
Onion (green)...  
Onion (dry)...  
Olive (green)...  
Olive (black)...  
Orange...  
Pear...  
Pepper (hot)...  
Pepper (sweet)...  
Potato...  
Spinach...  
Spring Bean...  
Tomato...









Rwandan Hutu refugees pass by bodies of dead Zairean soldiers near the camp of Sake Sunday. Hundreds of thousands of refugees fled the Muganga and Sake refugee camps Thursday to return to Rwanda after having been in Zaire for more than two years (Reuters photo)

## Rwandan refugee flood continues; U.S. consults allies

GISENYI, Rwanda (R) — More refugees flooded across the border from eastern Zaire into this small Rwandan border town Sunday — the third day of a human wave which showed no sign of slowing down.

The exodus of refugees back to Rwanda prompted U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry to say the United States and its allies might modify a plan to send a multinational humanitarian force to the region this week.

U.N. special envoy Raymond Chretien said such a force was still needed in troubled eastern Zaire.

"I can see the need for such a force...don't think only of what you see on the television screens. There is a huge number of refugees that are absolutely invisible but are still very much in eastern Zaire," Mr. Chretien said in a BBC radio interview.

Thousands of impoverished refugees, who had earlier fled from camps up to 30 kilometres north of the Zairean city of Goma, spent the night huddled under plastic sheeting with their bundles of belongings.

An estimated 250,000 Rwandan Hutus have already returned home. As many as 400,000 could still come.

Overnight Goma was filled with the haze of smoke from fires as thousands of refugee families cooked a final evening meal in Zaire. As dawn broke they packed up their bundles and formed a long, snaking column entering Rwanda.

Rwandan border guards who had earlier searched the refugees abandoned their task, apparently overwhelmed by sheer numbers.

The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said Saturday a total of 200,000 Rwandan Hutus — from the more than one million who fled to Zaire in 1994 — had returned since Friday.

"We are overwhelmed," said UNHCR spokesman Ray Wilkinson. "To use that overused phrase, this is of biblical proportions. I don't think we could plan in taking 700,000 people in a few days — the crisis right now is to get them back home."

The refugees lack food and clean water. There is no sanitation. The crush is relentless. Conditions provide a perfect breeding ground for such diseases as cholera which killed tens of thousands of Hutus in Zaire two years ago.

Aid agencies have supplies of food nearby and are struggling against insuperable odds to distribute them to the most needy refugees.

Workers have given up trying to register the refugees and hope they will return quickly to their villages and replant their fields.

The Rwandan government has pledged their right to do

this, but doubts persist over their likely reception from former Tutsi neighbours, many of whom have been joined by other Tutsis returning from long years of exile.

World Food Programme (WFP) spokesperson Brenda Barton said Sunday one food truck had been looted by desperate refugees.

The agency was now setting up food dumps at strategic points to supply those returning to the villages inside Rwanda from which they fled in 1994.

The mass exodus began suddenly Friday when an alliance of Zairean rebels, forced Hutu militiamen, who had been preventing the refugees from leaving, to flee the teeming camps they had ruthlessly controlled since 1994.

The militia and former Hutu government troops had spearheaded the genocide of some one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994, before being driven out by Tutsi rebels who went on to establish a new government in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

The UNHCR said its officials had met Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila and he had suggested that Rwandan refugees from other areas such as Bukavu further south could begin moving back into Rwanda from Tuesday.

In Washington, Mr. Perry said the rapidly changing situation could affect plans for the Canadian-led multinational force that the U.N. Security Council approved by unanimous vote Friday.

Mr. Perry told a news conference the United States would consult its allies after receiving a report this weekend from a survey team in the region.

Mr. Perry stressed no changes had been made yet in the tentative U.S. offer to send 1,000 troops to Goma and several thousand other support personnel to countries neighbouring Zaire.

"We are standing by in a ready mode to move forward with humanitarian support," he said.

But Rwanda said the mass return of Hutus meant the force was obsolete before it was even deployed and the world should send aid instead to help Rwanda settle the refugees.

U.N. envoy Chretien, in Rwanda's capital as part of his shuttle diplomacy in the volatile Central African region, said he had discussed the current return of the refugees with Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu.

"I reminded him of course that what we are witnessing is very positive news. This is what they've been looking for for years," Mr. Chretien said.

"However, there is approximately 1.2 million refugees in eastern Zaire and so far just a very small percentage of that huge number have come back."

## Clinton monitors Zaire events, troop plans may change

HONOLULU (R) — President Bill Clinton, calling America the world's "indispensable nation," Saturday said he approved plans to send U.S. troops to Bosnia and Zaire after assurances their risks will be limited.

Mr. Clinton spoke by telephone with South African President Nelson Mandela for about 15 minutes as Washington pressed for broad-based regional participation in the mission to help Rwandan refugees.

White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn noted the situation was "fluid" and that Mr. Clinton was awaiting the assessment of a 40-member team sent to Zaire.

In the meantime, preparations were continuing for deployment of U.S. troops, including the pre-positioning of support equipment and transport aircraft at key sites in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, a Pentagon spokesman said.

The return of tens of thousands of refugees to Rwanda from Zaire in the last few days has changed the nature of the problem and plans to send troops to Zaire next week might be modified, Defence Secretary William Perry said in Washington.

"There have been some very interesting and positive developments in Zaire in the last two days," Mr. Perry told a news conference. "It is possible that our plan, the allied plan... will be modified."

Senior officials told the Washington Post the United States would consult with its allies in Stuttgart, Germany Tuesday after receiving reports from the survey team, which also includes representatives from Britain, France and Canada.

"We are standing by in a ready mode to move forward with humanitarian support," said Mr. Perry. He emphasised that no changes had yet been made.

But administration officials said the developments in Zaire meant that fewer troops would likely be deployed.

Mr. Clinton this week agreed in principle to send up to 5,000 troops to the region to join in a humanitarian relief effort to help up to 1 million refugees facing death and starvation.

But thousands of the refugees have in the past two days begun streaming back into Rwanda.

"If this trend continues, it will change substantially the nature of the humanitarian problem" in Zaire, said Mr. Perry. "It will not eliminate the need for humani-

tarian support, but it will substantially change the nature of that need," he said.

Resting briefly in Hawaii before departing Monday on a trip to Australia, the Philippines and Thailand, Mr. Clinton used his weekly radio address to stress the nation's duties and interests on the world stage.

"As I've said many times, America is the world's indispensable nation, the one the world looks to for leadership because of our strength and our values," he said.

He said the problems in Bosnia and Rwanda "are part of America's responsibilities in the world" and noted Americans must "be ready to share our strength when our values and our interests demand it."

"I've set out clear conditions for American participation to minimise risk and give our troops the best possible chance to make a difference," Mr. Clinton said.

On Friday, before leaving on his 12-day trip, Mr. Clinton said he had agreed to commit 8,500 U.S. ground troops to take part in a new NATO mission aimed at fostering peace in Bosnia.

The current mission, which involved some 20,000 U.S. troops in Bos-

nia for the past year, will be ended, Mr. Clinton said the "new mission is clear, is limited, and is achievable."

Although he has approved U.S. participation in the mission to Zaire in principle, Mr. Clinton has demanded that "certain conditions be met" — including having American forces led by a U.S. commander even though the overall operation will be under Canadian command. He has been pushing for assurances from the warring factions that the mission will not come under attack.

"As Zaire and Bosnia remind us, differences among people can fuel the most vicious and violent hatreds," Mr. Clinton said, warning that it only leads to "tragedy and despair."

"Let us be ready to share our strength when our values and our interests demand it, with others around the world who need a hand to help themselves to reach their dreams," he said.

Mr. Clinton's trip will also take him to the fourth annual meeting of the leaders of the 18-nation Asia-Pacific economic cooperation forum, held this year in the Philippines. He returns to Washington on Nov. 27.

## U.S. seen vetoing new term for Ghali Monday

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali's hopes for a second five-year term are expected to run into a United States veto Monday when the Security Council begins nominating a U.N. chief to lead the world body into the next century.

The council, which has to choose a candidate for election by the 185-nation general assembly, will begin by holding informal consultations to see whether the United States has had a change of heart.

Washington has repeatedly called for new leadership to reform the 51-year-old United Nations. But it has not named any preferred alternative to the 74-year-old Egyptian diplomat, whose current term expires on Dec. 31.

He was formally nominated for re-election by Egypt last week and his name will be the only one on the first secret ballot, held behind closed doors.

According to U.N. officials, President Bill Clinton has been urged to relent in letters from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, French President Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, South African President Nelson Mandela, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina.

But U.S. officials say Washington's position remains unchanged and that if Dr. Ghali's name is put forward it will be vetoed, even though he has the backing of the Organisation of African Unity, the Arab League and many countries including a large segment of the 15-nation Security Council.

If Dr. Ghali is vetoed, as seems virtually certain, the current council President, Nugroho Wisnumurti of Indonesia, has said priority would be given to other candidates from Africa.

This is because secretaries-general from other regions — such as Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru, Kurt Waldheim of Austria and U Thant of Burma — all had two terms in office. And if Dr. Ghali is denied a second term, tradition dictates his successor should at least be another African.

If the council is unable to choose an African, the contest would eventually be thrown open to candidates from other parts of the world, though it is unclear how many ballots might be confined exclusively to African hopefuls.

In addition to the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France all have vetoes. Among African diplomats mentioned as potential candidates are

Under-Secretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana, who heads U.N. peacekeeping operations; Hamid Algabid of Niger; Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference; Salim A. Salim of Tanzania, the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity and Olara Otunnu, a former Ugandan U.N. envoy who heads the New York-based International Peace Academy.

Some diplomats believe the list could also include Abdou Diouf, the president of Senegal; Amara Essy, the foreign minister of the Ivory Coast and James Jonah, Sierre Leone's U.N. ambassador and a former U.N. undersecretary-general who told Reuters recently he did not want the job.

## Bhutto vows to stay and fight

KARACHI (AFP) —

Sacked Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said she was not afraid to die and would resist attempts by those who killed her brother Murtaza to "blackmail" her.

"I am not afraid of anybody. I am not scared of hanging. When the brother tries to come closer to the sister, he gets killed to blackmail me and my government," a defiant Bhutto told a public rally here late Saturday, her first since her ouster on Nov. 5.

Murtaza Bhutto, estranged younger brother of Benazir, and seven of his colleagues were killed in a reported shootout between police and his guards here on Sept. 27.

President Farooq Leghari sacked Ms. Bhutto and dissolved the national assembly in November, accusing her government of massive corruption, "misrule," economic mismanagement and lawlessness leading to the thousands of extra-judicial killings in Karachi and other parts of the country.

Before addressing party activists and supporters

near her seaside Bilawal house residence, Ms. Bhutto led a long procession of vehicles after arriving here from Islamabad Saturday, on a first visit to her home province of Sindh since her ouster.

Mr. Murtaza's supporters have accused Ms. Bhutto's detained husband, Asif Ali Zardari, of a role in the killing and clashed with Ms. Bhutto party activists during Saturday's procession. Several people were injured in the clashes.

Ms. Bhutto told the rally that her brother's killing was a "conspiracy" to topple her government and alleged that "Leghari is involved directly or indirectly."

"Leghari come and answer," she said.

"Oppressors cannot succeed, victory belongs to the people," Ms. Bhutto said, adding: "I swear I will stand by the people of Pakistan for the rest of my life."

Last week, Ms. Bhutto challenged her dismissal in a writ filed with the supreme court in Islamabad.

Ms. Bhutto claimed her government had restored

peace in Karachi by defeating "terrorists."

More than 2,000 people have been killed in Karachi since January 1995 in prolonged unrest linked to political, ethnic and sectarian problems.

"The three years were not an easy period. There were people talking about division of the country. With the blessing of God we faced the terrorists and saved Pakistan," Ms. Bhutto said.

The ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), which represents Urdu-speaking migrants from India, had been at loggerheads with Ms. Bhutto.

The MQM, blamed by Ms. Bhutto for terrorism and accused police of killing its activists in custody.

Mr. Leghari, in his nov 5 proclamation sacking Ms. Bhutto, said thousands of "extra-judicial killings" had taken place in Karachi and other parts of the country during Ms. Bhutto's government.

Referring to reports that Mr. Leghari who is troubled by a stone in a kidney, Ms. Bhutto said it was a "divine retribution."

## Sri Lankan planes bomb Tiger targets

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka's air force bombed suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla targets in the east of the country as ground troops remained on maximum alert for retaliatory rebel attacks, officials said Sunday.

Air force bombers devastated a separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) building near the small town of Chenkaladi Saturday, officials said, adding that rebel casualties were not immediately known.

"It is believed that the target was a clandestine medical facility of the Tigers," a local official said.

The air strikes came as government troops relocated one of their elite fighting units in the adjoining district of Ampara in a bid to seek and destroy suspected Tiger positions in the area, officials said.

Villagers in eastern regions were under increased pressure by the LTTE, which has been accused of killing scores of civilians of the majority Sinhalese community and the minority Muslims living in the area.

The LTTE claims the island's northeast as a traditional homeland, where they want to establish an independent state called Eelam. More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting since 1972.

Troops in the embattled northern and eastern regions have been placed on top alert for possible bomb attacks by the Tigers to mark the 42nd birthday of rebel supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran on Nov. 26, officials said.

The Tigers also mark a "heroes' week" in November to commemorate their dead fighters.

There was no immediate response from the Tigers to the latest military action in the island's east but the guerrillas in a statement from their London office Sunday claimed they killed four troops elsewhere.

The LTTE said it overran 15 government security check points in the northern district of Vavuniya Friday night and killed four soldiers, against the loss of four of their own fighters.

The statement said they also captured an arms store during the raid.

"Army-controlled Vavuniya is becoming increasingly vulnerable to LTTE forces who are trying to evict occupying Sinhala (government) troops from the traditional homeland," the statement said.

Officials said they had stepped up vigilance in the embattled northeast as well as in the capital, Colombo, to prevent attacks during the upcoming LTTE "heroes' week."

## Main parties tied as Thai voting ends

BANGKOK (R) — The two leading parties taking part in Thailand's general election were seen in a dead heat by a television exit poll broadcast soon after voting closed Sunday.

The Democrat Party of former Premier Chuan Leekpai and the New Aspiration Party (NAP) of Defence Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh were seen winning 124 seats each after a campaign billed as the most violent and dirty in two decades.

Analysts cautioned that the exit poll was likely to have been conducted on a small sample of voters and therefore may not be very accurate. No previous Thai election has resulted in a tie between the two top parties and some analysts said chances for such an outcome were very slim.

Channel 9 television also reported that the chart Patana Party would win 52 seats while the incumbent chart Thai Party would secure 35 seats in the 393-seat lower house of parliament.

More than 38 million Thais were eligible to vote in the polls in which 2,310

candidates from 13 parties are standing. This is the fourth general election in Thailand in four years and the second in 16 months.

Voter turnout was strong as people walked, drove and even rowed through flooded streets to polling booths under mixed skies.

But the election was marred by a shooting and reports of bribery and intimidation, election officials said.

A gunman shot and seriously wounded a policeman, an election official and a voter in the western Bangkok suburb of Bang Khae, but was arrested shortly after, police said.

Pollwatch, the election watchdog, estimated that politicians had spent between 20 billion and 30 billion baht (\$800 million and \$1.2 billion) to date on vote-buying.

Most of the vote-buying was conducted in the northeast, the poorest region in Thailand with more than one-third of all seats being contested in the polls.

Pollwatch said it had received 5,294 complaints about various malpractices,

of which 2,730 were about vote-buying.

The Channel 9 exit poll also showed the social action party taking 19 seats and five other smaller parties winning the rest.

Officials said vote counting would begin soon and the first few results were expected to start trickling in less than one hour after balloting was closed.

Opinion polls were divided on the outcome of the election even before voting was closed. They had shown the democrats, led by former Premier Chuan Leekpai, and the NAP headed by Defence Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh running neck and neck in what analysts said was set to be the closest race ever.

The Democrat Party had refused to work in a coalition with the NAP whatever the outcome of the result, but the NAP's Chavalit has said he is still open to such an idea.

"I insist the two major parties should work in different camps," the democrats Chuan said after polling closed.

The statement said they also captured an arms store during the raid.

"We are also going to make preventive arrests," he said. "So far protest groups have been peaceful... but we are worried some people might resort to self-immolations to dramatise the situation and grab publicity," he said.

"There is also a bomb threat," he added.

Meanwhile, Miss World International Vice-President Julia Morley, offered an olive branch to critics, saying she was ready for a rapprochement.

## Indian police arrest 4,000 at Miss World

BANGALORE, India (AFP) — Baton-wielding police arrested some 4,000 leftists here Sunday after they tried to lay siege to a hotel housing 89 contestants of the Miss World pageant.

Witnesses said the predominantly female crowd, led by senior Communist party of India-Marxist leader Subhasini Ali, was beaten back by truncheon-wielding policemen, and later packed off to police stations.

Ms. Ali said before her arrest that she had scored a victory over the state administration.

"The fact that the swimsuit round was moved to the Seychelles and other con-

tests are being held outside bangalore proves this," she said, as activists shouted: "Death to Miss World" and "who is more beautiful, Mother Teresa or (India's last Miss World winner) Aishwarya Rai?"

The contest shows women should please men and be dictated by beauty norms set by the marketplace. We are trying to change these stereotypes."

The action came hours after the police chief of this southern Indian city, capital of Karnataka state, said he was prepared to snuff out any protests.

"Nothing is being left to chance. We are anticipating all kinds of threats, and are

making arrangements to counter them," Sarat Chandra Burman, police commissioner of Bangalore, said.

"We are also going to make preventive arrests," he said. "So far protest groups have been peaceful... but we are worried some people might resort to self-immolations to dramatise the situation and grab publicity," he said.

"There is also a bomb threat," he added.

Meanwhile, Miss World International Vice-President Julia Morley, offered an olive branch to critics, saying she was ready for a rapprochement.



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### 'Hot pursuit' defies logic

ONE OF the sticking points in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the long-delayed Israeli military redeployment in Hebron is Israel's insistence on having the right to "hot pursuit" of Palestinians suspected of threatening its security. The concept means that Israeli soldiers can pursue Palestinians inside the city, which will come under the control of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), on the flimsiest of evidence that a Hebronite or a group of Hebronites are plotting an attack against Jewish targets inside the city or outside it. The PNA, naturally, rejects this condition because it contravenes the Oslo accords and because the demand's acceptance would make a mockery of the idea behind Israel's withdrawal from Hebron.

Israel says its concern for the safety of some 400 Jewish extremists living inside of the city is the reason behind its insistence on the right to "hot pursuit." This justification is simply unacceptable, however. The Israeli settlers in question happen to be heavily armed and well protected by a powerful Israeli military contingent which is ready to strike effectively against any potential attacker. On the other hand, there are over 100,000 Palestinians who will be effectively denied security from Jewish fanatics if Israel's desire to limit the number and kind of weapons that Palestinian police can possess is heeded.

That the threat to security and safety in and around Hebron comes from Israeli zealots was well-established when Baruch Goldstein machine-gunned scores of Palestinian worshippers in February, 1994.

If Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists on this condition before he seals an agreement on the redeployment of troops in Hebron, the PNA police should be properly armed to defend Palestinians from Jewish extremists who may strike at Palestinian civilians. If Hebronites cannot feel safe even when they are praying in mosques, they cannot be expected to feel safe at their homes and workplace. Which defeats a major purpose of the peace process. Peace should enable both the Palestinians and the Israelis to lead a dignified life free from the threat of violence, counterviolence and economic deprivation. Otherwise, the peace effort will simply collapse. The peace that Israel is trying to impose on Hebron and the Palestinians generally is one under which their lives will be threatened by proven fanatics. It is a peace that will not work and therefore cannot be accepted.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily voiced appreciation for the United Nations for announcing at the Cairo economic summit that it will urge the Arab countries to establish a bank that would finance projects benefiting the needy people of the Arab World, who are increasing by the day. Yousef Abdullah Mahmoud said that it is painful indeed to see the United Nations give due attention to the poor of the Arab World at a time when Arab governments are not doing enough to save their own kinsmen. Why is it that the Arab states, whose collective wealth is quite capable of uprooting all forms of poverty in the Arab region, fail to rise to the occasion and come to the help of the poor, asked the writer. It is true that some Arab funds continue to offer loans to Arab governments to enable them to carry out economic schemes, yet such funds are adversely affected by the political developments which sometimes prompt the donors to refrain from releasing funds, he added. Obviously these funds have to date failed to address the questions of poverty and unemployment that are plaguing most of the Arab countries, except the oil rich among them, said to the writer. He added that perhaps the United Nations gesture will serve as a catalyst and prompt Arab regimes to shoulder their responsibilities towards the poor in the Arab World.

COMMENTING ON the killing of the Jordanian driver of the diplomatic car on the road to Baghdad, Saleh Qallab, a writer for Al Dustour, expressed hope that the incident would not adversely affect relations between Jordan and Iraq. These relations are sacred and must rise above the prevailing circumstances, political developments or the whims of highwaymen, he said. While placing the blame on the Iraqi authorities, who ought to provide security for travellers in general and the diplomatic missions in particular, one cannot dismiss the Jordanian foreign ministry's responsibility for the incident, noted the writer. He said that the foreign ministry, which realises the extent of danger on the Amman-Baghdad road, in light of previous incidents, must have provided security to the driver, the diplomatic car and the diplomatic pouch which contained important documents destined for the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad. The Iraqi authorities are to blame in the first place, for failing to provide security to the Jordanian and other countries' diplomats who have been using the road for the past six years as the only land outlet for Iraq under the U.N.-imposed sanctions, but it is unjustifiable for the foreign ministry to despatch its documents without sufficient protection, said the writer. He added that the two sides ought to share responsibility for the tragic incident.

### Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

## Cairo conference message: Cooperation is a two-way street

NOW THAT the Middle East/North Africa conference in Cairo (MENA Cairo) is over and behind us, we can breathe a sigh of relief and look back objectively at what took place. Progress towards a better Jordan has taken a leap forward: a summary of what the Jordanian economy is about has been presented to the world. Meanwhile, a new, sophisticated group of technocrats has emerged, giving Jordan an aura of modernity that surpassed anything other countries in the region could offer at the conference.

At the Casablanca conference of '94, the message was political: a message at which most people of the region oratorically excel. At the time, the Israelis were entering the regional fold and the Arabs were demonstrating to the world their willingness to let Israel co-exist with them. In Amman in 1995, the conference emphasised regional cooperation: the Arabs were proving to the world that they were willing to trade with Israel, thus allowing Israel further integration. Last week in Cairo, a new message was delivered: cooperation is a two-way street. Israel cannot expect the Arabs to cooperate and forgive all past acts of aggression while it continues to refuse the humanity of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Cooperation and trust are proven through commitments to peace and security by each party. The recognition that an Arab's life is worth exactly as much as that of an Israeli must become instilled in the Israeli way of thinking, otherwise peace and trade will suffer, and foreign investment in Israel will fall as has been demonstrated before and during the conference.

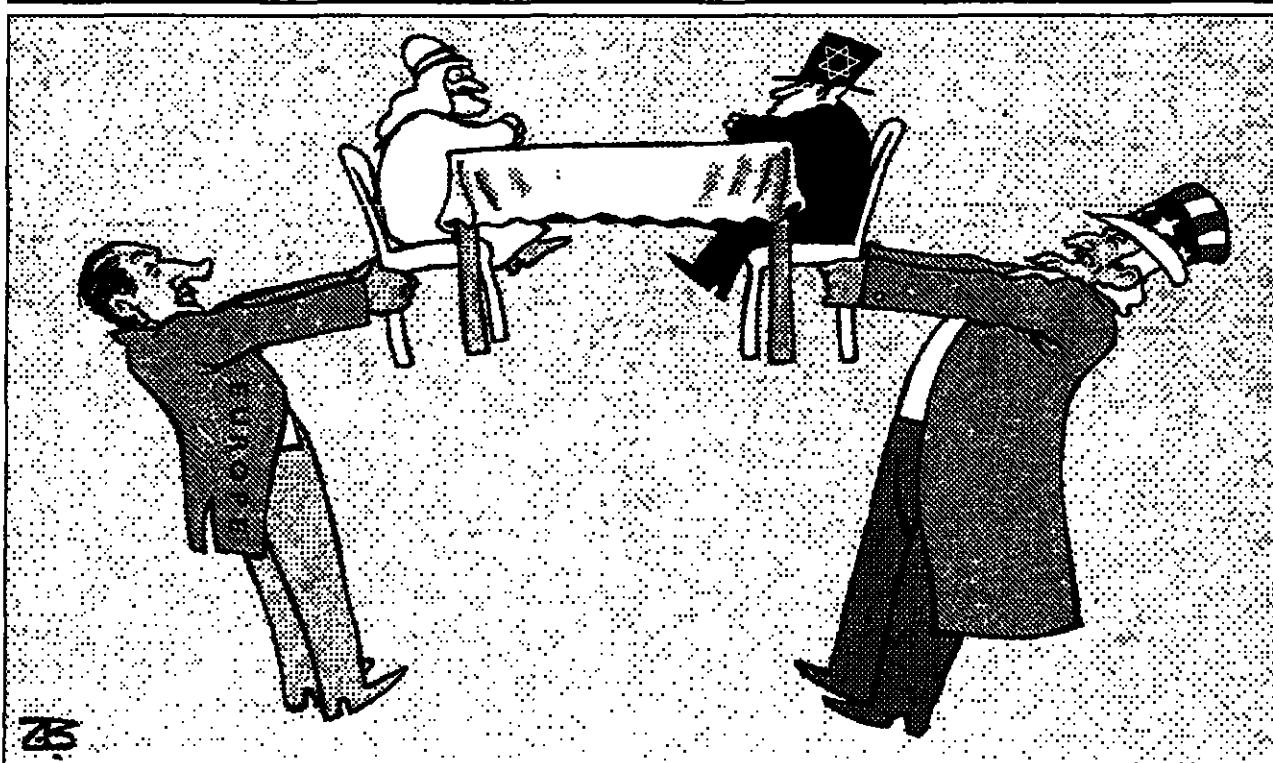
Jordan's approach to the conference was very subtle and mature. It reflected a general consensus that Israel was not to be the focal point of trade in the region, at least not this time. In terms of image building, Jordan was a clear winner. Its projects were presented with professionalism, focusing on reform and the creation of a new industrial sphere that is being developed for investment and competitiveness. Privatised high growth sectors, such as telecommunications and tourism, are proving to be attractive to foreign investors everywhere.

From the financial aspect, only time will tell how much money will be invested in Jordan as a result of its strong presence at the conference. The Jordanian government did not postpone the signing of prior agreements until the conference as other governments did in a ploy to bamboozle their people. Such an act would have been criminal: postponing deals until it is appropriate for the government to announce them collectively to show that it can attract investors causes several millions of dollars in lost earnings to be forsaken. Several hundred-million-dollar investment projects are not granted in three days at a conference, at least not when it comes to private sector money.

Is peace a vital ingredient to economic growth, development and modernisation? No, it is only vital to regional cooperation. Jordan will modernise in spite of the antics of peace haters such as Netanyahu. It has a peace treaty with Israel. Maybe not with the person of Netanyahu, but with the state of Israel, because had he been the president at the time, the treaty would definitely not have been signed. Jordan will uphold its part of the deal and probably so will Israel. However, Netanyahu forgot one thing: peace is made by people and not by cabinets or agreements. A peace that will last is one where people come to know each other, trust and work together, view each other as worthy friends, neighbours and colleagues. This trust translates into dollars and cents in terms of production expansion and growing markets beyond the traditional scope of the nationalistic politics of religion and race.

How can we separate politics from economics when Israel blocks Jordanian goods from entering the West Bank and Gaza? How can we explain to the average merchant in Jordan that his product will not sell today to his brother or relative in the West Bank, not because it is good or bad but because the Israeli government deems a closure politically necessary. Who will compensate the Jordanian investor, to whom the invisible hand which Adam Smith spoke about several hundred years ago has simply been cut and thrown in the deep drawers of hate? After all, ours is a small economy where every crisis, no matter how small, is felt by all. And the bad news of good businesses collapsing because of the political acts of the recent Israeli government do not make the price of peace to Jordanians any lighter, but several times heavier.

Israel may have been shown, at the conference, that regional trade and peace go hand in hand. Development does not necessarily need peace; many economies have done very well during times of war. Therefore, nations will develop and economic growth will occur in the region. However, due to Netanyahu's policies, regional trade will take longer to become a reality. Maybe the next conference at Doha will be about regional trade and cooperation, and maybe Jordan will do well again.



### LETTERS

#### No to settlements

To the Editor:

THE U.S. has been extremely permissive regarding Israeli settlement policy, and successive American administrations have claimed to be "even handed" (typical of this claim is White House spokesman Nicholas Burns' recent explanation that France cannot act as a mediator since, unlike the U.S., France is not perceived as "even handed").

However, I will argue that the U.S. only pretends to concern itself with the well-being of the settlers in Hebron: if their deep psychological needs were understood, Americans like the Levingers and their followers (including their hero, the late Baruch Goldstein) would not need to risk their lives in a hostile foreign environment where their talents are unappreciated — nay, sometimes even resented! The Pilgrim Fathers fought for a New Jerusalem in the real Promised Land, America, the true birthright of these sterling citizens.

If President Clinton really understood the subliminal motivations of these misunderstood Americans, he would invite them home. Of course, to make the invitation really compelling, he would have to withhold — being cruel only to be kind — a few billion dollars from the usual American largesse to Israel unless and until this offer is accepted. Why should the privilege of sanctions be reserved for harmless little places like Cuba and the now devastated Iraq?

And what are these deep needs? First, there is the longing for a home. Is it not obvious that New York is the place to satisfy this burning need? We must build an exact replica of the Ibrahimi Mosque in some asphalt jungle in the inner city of New York, since this building seems to hold an irresistible attraction for our compatriots. For a few extra thousand dollars we could even decorate it with barbed wire and sandbags, just to give it a homey touch. You may object that it would take the thrill out of praying in this mosque if it were actually their own rather than someone else's, and I have thought of that: the good ecumenical Catholics of St. Patrick's Cathedral (many of whom visit Israel as a kind of early Christian theme park) would be more than happy to welcome their Jewish brethren for prayers, though possibly the New York police would request that they leave their heavy weapons in a stack near the holy water font at the rear of the church.

Suppose the need is also to use these weapons to

shoot live humans (as suggested by the periodic massacres in which they indulge in the mosque in Hebron). Not to worry! We have a film industry which has made serial murder psychologically understandable, and we could save millions of dollars by taking groups of inmates from death row in various U.S. prisons, assembling them (unarmed, of course) in the New Ibrahimi Mosque in New York and, on appropriate festive occasions — say The Feast of the Atonement or Yom Kippur — the Jewish settlers could come in and machine-gun them all. Of course, the expensive carpets could be removed on such occasions so they would not be defaced by those expensive blood stains.

If all these home comforts are not enough and there is still a crying need to run amok periodically, destroy cars, break windows and loot their neighbours' stores, we could open branches of The Gap, I. Magnin and Woolworths in the vicinity of the mosque. Regular days for looting and pillaging could be set aside, funds from the U.N. Peacekeeping Funds being diverted to cover the losses of these stores; this would be much cheaper than the expenditure of millions to send soldiers abroad.

If Mr. Burns finds the behaviour of these settlers defensible in the West Bank, surely they would be positively laudable back home. We already have enclaves of wealthy citizens living behind barbed wire, under guard from their more financially challenged neighbours. Furthermore, the fine family values of our settler citizens would come handy for various campaigns — like "just say no to drugs" announced by Mrs. Reagan, and the "kinder, gentler world" envisioned by George Bush. They have the almost unique advantage in the fight against drugs in the inner cities: not only are they trained in the use of weapons of mass destruction, they also come equipped with a complete indifference as to whether their neighbours like them or not.

But think of the fringe benefits: the city of Hebron would have its own mosque and its central marketplace back, its school children could go to school without being bludgeoned to death, and a precedent for a peaceful solution to the whole Palestine-Israeli problem would be established.

But this beautifully equitable solution is only possible if the U.S. gives the necessary good example: just say no to all illegal settlements in the Palestinian lands.

Dr. A. Clare Brandabur,  
Amman.

### Human Rights File

## Human rights violations — how far a country can go

By Waleed M. Sadi

MINISTER OF information, Dr. Marwan Muasher, was the first official ever who came close to admitting that there may have been "excesses" in the country and to suggest that the aggrieved people should think in terms of lodging complaints to the judiciary to redress their grievances.

This "constrained, muted admission" that the country has experienced violations of human rights is itself a giant step in the right direction and may constitute a breakthrough in the attempt to weed out human rights abuses in Jordan if more can be allowed to be constructed on its edifice.

If we stop to think why the minister of information went further than all officials in admitting that a human rights problem does indeed exist in our midst, we may find the answer in the minister's personal profile as an enlightened man of high integrity who cannot imagine how a fledgling democracy as the one we enjoy in Jordan can ever be immune from violations of human rights.

It was very smart of Dr. Muasher to say the obvious since it is taken for granted that the country's experimentation in democracy has yet to run its full course. Instead of flat and blanket denials of all human rights transgressions, other high officials are called upon to follow in the footsteps of the minister of information so that our credibility in this regard can be enhanced. Besides, there is no country on our planet which does not experience some form of human rights violation or another. Repeated denials of the existence of human rights problems in our midst would only serve to destroy the credibility of the country as a whole. In short, it is not shameful to recognise the existence of the problem and authorises should proceed on that basis.

The significance of an admission of guilt lies also in the fact that redressing the problem of human rights begins with the acceptance of its existence. As long as we reject even the possibility of human rights violations, there can be no beginning in the healing or rectification process. That is why we should not stop where Dr. Muasher has left but rather continue to search for remedies that are effective and institutional.

Dr. Muasher has proposed that affected people who believe that their human rights have been violated resort to litigation. This proposal could be the right thing to do in advanced democracies where all the necessary institutional arrangements and legislative actions have been done and completed; in our milieu, though, not just yet.

If we are talking here of Sweden or Denmark, then there can be no doubt that citizens may take their grievances to the courts of the land for redress. In states such as Jordan, where the process of democratisation has not been completed, reliance on the judiciary at this early stage may not be the most operational way to go about solving the problem.

If we concede that a problem regarding human rights does in fact exist, then we must stop and ask ourselves if the problem is associated with the incompleteness of the democratic process, in which case the remedy would lie first and foremost with having the necessary political will to rectify the issue. It strikes me as premature to rely so much on the judiciary before the suggested political will is exercised in favour of a higher level of civil and political rights, over and above the economic, social and cultural rights.

It seems to be that our sense of insecurity, due to past and current events, has effectively prevented us from going all the way in support of all human rights. In a way, this may be understandable when it comes to human rights that are not so basic, but no longer defensible when it comes to basic human rights which cannot be derogated from even in cases of emergencies.

Admittedly, there is a school of thought in many developing countries which is in favour of adopting shortcut approaches to security and stability. New countries which form the majority of the developing world have yet to feel confident enough to relax their vigilance against threats to their very existence.

It must be borne in mind, in this vein, that no defence of human rights can be taken for a breakdown in law and order in any country, whether developed or developing. Promotion and protection of human rights are never meant to serve as a licence to flout internal security. On this much we can all agree. Where disagreement may genuinely and fairly exist among well-intentioned people on any side is on how to attain security and stability without trespassing fundamental human rights, i.e., whether to adopt shortcuts to safeguard internal security or follow the longer but more internationally acceptable methodology of securing the safety and well-being of the country.

As mentioned earlier, by and large, developing countries have opted for the shortcut because it is simpler, cheaper and bears fruit immediately. The developed nations have chosen the longer but more sophisticated route because it is fairer, more legitimate and more effective in the long run. There will come a moment in time when we will have to choose between belonging to the developing countries' camp or advance to the developed states group. The decision is certainly not an easy one for officials who would have to deal with security-related issues and feel they cannot afford the luxury of experimenting with the unknown.

As a student of international human rights, I would accept to go as far as to entertain a deal or compromise under which derogating human rights could be "violated," but non-derogating ones could not, under any circumstance, including emergency situations. This is indeed a very controversial position to take on human rights, but I, for one, would be willing to tolerate it temporarily as long as non-derogative human rights are never violated.

I would base my position on Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which happens to be legally binding on Jordan because it was ratified by our country in the late seventies. The Article reads as follows: "In time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation and the existence of which is officially proclaimed, the States Parties (Jordan included) to the present Covenant may take measures derogating from their obligations under the present Covenant to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with their other obligations under international law and do not involve discrimination solely on the ground of race, colour, sex, language, religion or social origin."

The crunch line is mentioned in paragraph 2 of the same provision, where it is clearly stated that "no derogation from articles 6, 7, 8 (paragraphs 1 and 2), 11, 15, 16, and 18 may be made under this provision," even when an emergency is officially declared.

Article 6 is about the right to life, the non-acceptability of the application of the death penalty except on the most serious crimes and the desirability of phasing it out altogether. Article 7 absolutely prohibits torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 8 outlaws slavery and servitude in all their forms. Article 11 states that "no one shall be imprisoned merely on the ground of inability to fulfil a contractual obligation." Article 15 rejects the prejudicial retroactive application of laws. Article 16 calls for the recognition of everyone as a person before the law. Finally, Article 18 stipulates that "everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."

I respectfully submit, therefore, that if our authorities feel that the security of the country requires abrogation of certain human rights, they must never accept violations of the aforementioned non-derogative rights simply because we are treaty obligated not to do so.

This is where the exercise of a political will would be called for.

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...work, war and re  
...has been used to  
...force them to obe  
...showing others  
...from their steadi  
...positive training  
...animals' own langu

By Chris Dunkerley

...COULD call me a  
...whisperer. "But I  
...say, Robert. I listen."  
...the 61-year-old Ameri-  
...can take an untrained  
...and persuade it to  
...saddle, bridle and  
...within 30 minutes —  
...communicating with the  
...in its own language.  
...thousands of years,  
...have been "break-  
...in horses, through  
...of intimidation  
...to use  
...punishment, trans-  
...for agriculture, trans-  
...war and pleasure. The  
...to break the horse's  
...power, and the process  
...takes weeks.  
...from Salinas,  
...believes he is  
...first person to train  
...using their language.  
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...when he was 13. "I  
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...maker," he says.  
...lucked and bit the other

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Samantha McArthur  
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...was only frightened  
...in his life — once  
...he broke his legs.  
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...They have the high-  
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...European countries  
...a reputation for hair-  
...driving.  
...last year, 2,165 people  
...killed in 50,000 car  
...accidents, up from 1,964  
...previous year, in a  
...city with a population  
...of 10 million.  
...have warned tourists who  
...have enough to hire a  
...to expect the inexplica-  
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...overlooking a line of  
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...by (R) — Portugal's  
...co-operations, fighting tough  
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## Talking horses teach trainers to be gentle

**Ever since humans first harnessed horses for work, war and recreation, punishment has been used to break their spirit and force them to obey. But now, one man is showing others how they can get more from their steeds by adopting a more positive training method based on the animals' own language.**

By Chris Dunkerley

"YOU COULD call me a horse whisperer," says Monty Roberts. "But I don't whisper. I listen."

The 61-year-old American can take an untrained horse and persuade it to accept saddle, bridle and rider within 30 minutes — by communicating with the animal in its own language.

For thousands of years, humans have been "breaking in" horses, through methods of intimidation and punishment, to use them for agriculture, transport, war and pleasure. The aim is to break the horse's willpower, and the process usually takes weeks.

Roberts, from Salinas, California, believes he is the first person to train horses using their language. "I felt as if I had been dropped on another planet," he says of the moment when he first learned to "speak" it.

He was watching herds of wild horses in the Nevada desert when he was 13. "I saw one adolescent who was a little hellion — a trouble-maker," he says. "He kicked and bit the other

horses, so the matriarch of the herd disciplined him. She drove him away, let him back, banished him again and then loved him until he was one of the team. All of this was done with a complex body language."

The teenage boy went home and tried breaking in a few horses using the same methods. It worked, but his father was appalled and beat him savagely. This was not the recognised way to tame an animal.

Roberts remembers watching his father break in a horse the traditional way. "He got on and off, kicked it in the belly, tried to raise some fight in it. If it responded, he whipped it."

Most of the horses used in the world are still broken in this way. But he says: "I felt even at a young age that this was wrong — that I would do things differently."

Because of the hostile reaction of men such as his father, who "grew up in a kill-or-be-killed atmosphere, where men were tough or they were gone," he used his skill in secret. "I hid from everybody," he

says. "I took enough abuse from many people."

He describes how the animals communicate: "A horse's language is a body language that uses the eyes, head, neck, shoulders, hips. There are no words, only phrases that mean 'I don't want to go here', 'I love this' or 'I want to come to you'."

While conventional training is all about negative reinforcement — "Gallop now or I'll hit you" — this language, that Roberts calls Equus, is positive, making the horse want to join the herd, join the team and achieve a goal.

Watching him work with an untrained horse is a strange experience, not just because of his signals, but also because he can predict the animal's responses. They seem to be performing a ritual dance. Sure enough, the horse accepts bridle, saddle and rider after 23 minutes.

People are finding that horses trained and treated in this way end up performing better.

Roberts was in Britain as part of a tour of Europe and North America to demonstrate his method and publicise a book he has written, "The man who listens to horses", which challenges the traditional understanding of horses and gives details of his study of and life with animals. He has also worked with deer, cats, dogs and birds.

Many developed countries have experienced a social shift in recent years in the way people relate to animals. From protests about fox hunting and the

transport of live calves, to the growth of vegetarianism, the move had been away from exploitation towards compassion — some would say sentimentality.

Perhaps it is because animals are no longer so important for survival in these societies. Roberts says that his father grew up in the tail end of the pioneer days of the U.S. "Wild West," which was founded on the use of the horses.

In societies where horses are more about luxury than labour, Roberts' skill has earned him a job as "psychologist" to difficult race horses.

In 1991, a horse called Lomitas refused to enter the starting stalls for a race in Cologne, Germany. He injured a number of men and was banned from racing. Roberts was called in to help. Ten days later, Lomitas was allowed back in the stalls. He won that race, and went on to earn 1,600,000 Deutschmarks in prize money.

The horse whisperer is proud of his efforts to make the world a better place for horses.

"The way we treat horses and other animals," he says, "is as if we turned the clock back to caveman days, and it would be OK for me to grab a woman by the hair, kick her in the belly, drag her away and have my way with her, stick her in a cave and say, 'You're mine and I'll go get another.' If that's OK, it's OK to treat horses the way we do. It's not even good sense."

Gemini News Service



## Portugal wrestles with the demon behind the wheel

By Samantha McArthur  
Reuter

LISBON — Orson Welles said he was only frightened twice in his life — once when he broke his legs, and once when he took a taxi in Lisbon.

The actor had good reason to fear Portuguese roads. They have the highest death rate in Western Europe.

The number of deaths per 1,000 tonnes of fuel consumed is nearly twice that of Italy and Belgium, two other European countries with a reputation for hair-raising driving.

Last year 2,165 people were killed in 50,000 car accidents, up from 1,964 the previous year, in a country with a population of just 10 million.

Police warn tourists who are brave enough to hire a car to expect the inexplicable.

It is not uncommon to see trucks overtaking a line of cars on a bend at the brow of a hill, or to be forced off the road on to the hard shoulder which often serves as an extra lane.

Politicians describe the accident rate as a national disgrace and have launched repeated prevention campaigns which have so far failed to make a dent on the statistics.

"The average Portuguese is a nice guy, quite a gentleman, but behind the wheel he becomes a fiend, using his car as a tool to assert himself," said traffic police chief Matos da Silva, who has spent 20



Portuguese cars destroyed in road accidents are piled up at a junk yard near Braga village. Portugal's roads have the highest death rate in western Europe. Last year 2,165 people were killed in 50,000 accidents up from 1,964 the previous year, in a country with a population of just 10 million (Reuter photo)

years dealing with demon drivers.

Outside the Lisbon police station where he works a sign saying "Slow, school ahead" lies crushed

on the pavement like a broken lollipop in the wake of a passing driver.

Law Professor Germano Marques da Silva, who drafted a new highway

code two years ago, says the Portuguese can no longer blame their old cars and pot-holed roads since increased wealth and European Union funds have

brought motorways and Mercedes to replace the 20-year-old Fiat 600s.

"The roads haven't kept up with Portugal's car fever in recent years but

that isn't the real problem. It's lack of good manners and education. To drive defensively requires maturity," he said.

Matos da Silva agrees:

"Our driving test is quite demanding and the schools teach good technical skills, but they don't instill an ethical approach to driving."

The Portuguese are not necessarily less mature or ethical than other Europeans but they are more likely to feel they will get away with a death-defying U-turn.

Whereas in the rest of Western Europe a police car patrols an average stretch of 35 to 45 km, in Portugal it must cover an average 130 km.

"We're not worse drivers than the Italians. It's just that we have fewer policemen," said Marques da Silva.

One senior police officer who did not wish to be identified said the Portuguese sense of impunity had its roots in the 1974 revolution which overthrew decades of right-wing dictatorship.

"At that time people were so drunk on liberty they called us 'fascists' if we booked them for speeding."

He said the complexities of the Portuguese courts, where cases involving traffic offences might be held up for years and then swept away by an amnesty, had deepened drivers' sense that they were untouchable.

The 1994 highway code has cut back much of this bureaucracy and introduced stiffer penalties but experts say it will take time to change deep-seated attitudes.

They cite the success of

neighbouring Spain which dramatically reduced its accident rate recently by creating tougher penalties and running a campaign which put scenes from the day's bloodiest accidents on prime-time television.

"People said shock tactics wouldn't work here," Marques da Silva said. "They said the Portuguese didn't like blood and guts and would switch off their televisions, so we got a nice campaign with actors which didn't offend — and didn't work."

Secretary of State for the Interior Armando Vara, who recently launched a new accident prevention campaign, favours shock tactics but thinks higher police visibility is the key to the problem.

"The only thing that will get people to fundamentally alter their behaviour is the knowledge that someone just around the corner will be watching what they are up to," he told the daily newspaper Publico.

Jorge Almeida Santos, a psychologist at the University of the Minho in northern Portugal, believes the cultural and psychological reasons why the Portuguese drive badly are often used as an excuse.

"Blaming the drivers — an amorphous mass that doesn't answer back — is easy. The driver is the scapegoat for poor road management and insufficient policing."

## Portugal's tourism industry goes upmarket

LISBON (R) — Portugal's tourism operators, fighting tough competition in package holidays, are going upmarket, promoting golf and sailing and expanding abroad to reduce their reliance on the sun-and-sand market.

"Portugal should go for quality, because at the quality end of the market our prices are competitive," said Andre Jordan, president of Lusotur, a leading Portuguese leisure group.

The number of package tourists visiting Portugal from its main markets, Britain and Germany, fell this year as many, worried about job security and

put off by a strong escudo, shopped around for cheaper deals to other destinations such as Turkey and Egypt.

"A lot of people book at the last minute. They don't care about the destination. They just want sunshine," said Bill Buxton, group director of operations of the Pestana group, Portugal's second biggest hotel chain. "It's a price issue."

The strength of the escudo is strangling package tourism to the Algarve region of southern Portugal, which brings in some 600 billion escudos (\$3.85 billion) a year, about 60 per cent of the

country's total tourism receipts, business leaders said.

Operators are turning increasingly to high-income tourists and promoting niche markets, building stylish accommodations beside golf courses and marinas, which they believe will guarantee occupancy during the low season winter months.

"Golf is a growth market across the world," said Stefano Savio, head of the Portuguese Hotels Association and president of the Dom Pedro hotels chain.

"Demand for golf is very strong in Portugal, especially in the winter when golf courses in

northern Europe are waterlogged," he told Reuters.

Lusotur's Jordan, who is building Europe's largest residential tourism complex in the Algarve, which includes golf courses and a marina, said: "We have 38 golf courses in Portugal. It's a very low number. We need to double it."

The Brazilian entrepreneur said the tourism industry should promote longer term use of marinas during the winter months.

"We need to convince Europeans to keep their boats here by offering attractive facilities such as good hotels and restaurants

near marinas," he said. Portugal has a strategic location for sailing vessels passing between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

Mr. Savio said authorities had to boost infrastructure such as roads, airports and health services to attract tourists.

He said poor flight connections between European capitals and Portugal and insufficient shuttles between Lisbon and the Algarve could dissuade business people from choosing golfing holidays or conferences in the Algarve.

"We are putting pressure on the government to improve infra-

structure and transport," Mr. Savio said.

Tourism, mainly from northern Europe and Spain, accounts for some seven per cent of Portugal's gross domestic product (GDP) and ranks alongside textiles as the sector contributing most to national wealth.

Some Portuguese tourism groups are expanding abroad to spread risks from a stagnant home market where the number of visitors rose by just 3.5 per cent and revenues by 3.7 per cent from 1990 to 1995, business leaders said.

Pestana has invested in hotel

management in Mozambique, a growing market. The Sol Hotel group, Portugal's biggest hotel chain, has interests in hotels in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

The Dom Pedro group, which operates five luxury hotels in Portugal, has agreed to take part in a joint venture to build a hotel on a prestigious golf course in the Moroccan capital of Rabat.

Lusotur is not planning to expand abroad but hopes to attract foreign tourists to its 100 billion escudo (\$644 million) Vilamoura complex, 20 km from Faro, which should be finished a decade from now.

"It will be the biggest tourism complex in Europe," Mr. Jordan said. "Vilamoura already has 35,000 beds — more than the island of Madeira," he said. "When it is finished, it will be bigger than Monte Carlo."

The project will add 25,000 beds to the existing Vilamoura complex as well as a shopping and health centre, 18-hole golf course, cinemas, discos, bowling and horse-riding facilities.

Vilamoura is aimed at middle and higher income consumers, Mr. Jordan said.

"We look at ourselves as an international product."



# WTO report says U.S. must keep its markets open

GENEVA (R) — The United States, the world's largest trading nation, must keep its markets open and resist pressures at home to take unilateral trade measures, a report by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has said.

A liberal and predictable U.S. market will help maintain growth in domestic productivity and is also vital for the health of the international trading system, it said.

The review of U.S. trade policy was written by WTO economists.

Commitments made by the United States under the 1994 Uruguay trade liberalisation accord included a trade-weighted tariff reduction of some 35 per cent by 1999, the report said.

But Washington has continued with regional, bilateral and unilateral trade initiatives, and its multi-track approach including investi-

gations under its "section 301" trade law can be a source of tension within the multilateral system, it added.

"While an open, predictable world trading system continues to be crucial for the well-being of the U.S. economy, the converse is also true: an open, predictable U.S. economy is crucial for the health of the world trading system," WTO said.

"It is therefore crucial that the United States and its partners utilise the system to maintain multilateralism as the key to future developments and discourage pressures for increased bilateralism or unilateralism," the report added.

Major trading partners, including Japan and the European Union (EU), were expected to express concern in the closed-door talks over unilateral, retaliatory measures taken by Washington

to force open foreign markets or punish Cuba, Iran and Libya.

The EU is on course to win establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel on Nov. 20 to examine its complaint that the U.S. Helms-Burton law punishing foreign companies in Cuba is extra-territorial and violates WTO free trade laws.

But the WTO report on the United States, its first since 1994, said trade had become increasingly important in U.S. economic activity and had served as a "counter-cyclical buffer".

"In the early 1990s, exports cushioned the impact of the U.S. recession, demonstrating the importance for the United States that its producers have secure, liberal access to foreign markets, within a strong rules-based multilateral system."

The United States continues to be the world's largest

single trading nation in both goods and services, with some 15 per cent of merchandise and 16 per cent of services' exports.

Trade represented 23.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1995, up from 20.76 per cent in 1990, the report said.

"The European Union remains the largest market for U.S. merchandise exports but there is an ongoing shift in the direction of U.S. trade toward East Asia, which is now the most important source of imports," it said.

The services sector has assumed a greater share of U.S. output, accounting for about two-thirds of GDP, or some four times the share of manufactured goods. Services also accounted for 65 per cent of employment last year.

It was in the U.S. interest to keep and improve its open and competitive services sector, according to the report. This went especially for 'input' services such as finance, communications and transport, where productivity gains can significantly lower costs in other sectors such as manufacturing.

The United States invests less as a share of GDP than its industrial counterparts, but prosperity is underpinned with very efficient resource allocation and high capital productivity, according to the 224-page report.

A major element in maintaining productivity was the openness of the U.S. economy, which helps to keep economic players under constant pressure to allocate resources efficiently.

"This also means that it is in the United States' own best interest to keep its markets securely open," it added.

The United States, in the first major trade policy statement since President Bill Clinton's reelection, Monday issued a ringing statement of commitment to open markets and WTO rules. Deputy Trade Representative Jeffrey Lang, speaking at the start of the WTO debate on the report, said: "The openness of our market and the increasing openness of foreign markets have undoubtedly contributed to the growth of U.S. trade and the overall robust health of the U.S. economy in recent years."

# Netanyahu sees \$1.3 billion in privatisation in coming year

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that he planned to launch a massive privatisation programme and predicted that foreign investors will not be scared away by Arab-Israeli tensions.

In an interview with Cable News Network, Mr. Netanyahu also said peace was not the main factor in assuring Israel's prosperity.

"Peace is important and necessary but not a sufficient condition for the kind of growth that are going to see in Israel in the coming years... The most critical thing we can do is open up the economy, liberalise it, deregulate, privatise with a vengeance," he explained.

"I think you're going to see privatisation at least of four billion shekels (\$1.25 billion) in the coming year," Mr. Netanyahu said. "That's our minimal programme."

Mr. Netanyahu rejected claims that foreign investors, which have poured billions of dollars into the Jewish state in recent years, will now be more timid.

"The really smart money has figured out that we are going to move on peace, and they can read behind the headlines very well, and they understand our

commitment to peace, both to the Palestinians and the Syrians," he said.

He added investors know that "the most undervalued assets, financial and technological, are in Israel... I have some of the great entrepreneurs in the world now talking to us about buying banks, buying government companies."

Responding to charges that little has been done during his five months in office, Mr. Netanyahu said: "You need to take the time to prepare the legal briefs that will enable you to push the privatisation through, so it's not stopped in the courts."

Mr. Netanyahu predicted

ed that labour-intensive industries from Israel will increasingly set up manufacturing sites in neighbouring Arab countries where the cost of labour is less expensive. Meanwhile, the percentage of Israeli families defined as "poor" declined in 1995 for the first time in six years, according to an official report. "In 1995, for the first time since 1989, a decline was registered in the scope of poverty in Israel," the report said.

"The percentage of poor families declined from 18 per cent of all the families in 1994 to 16.8 per cent in 1995," it said.

Horoscope Forecast for Monday, November 18, 1996

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll, Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You start the day today with true ingenuity and can handle responsibilities efficiently and also assist good friends with any tasks.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You can understand what is on your loved one's mind finally and you can reach a fine accord with this person on any subject.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day to work off all that energy at important duties you like to handle and get a feeling of satisfaction of a job well done.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Either accept invitations or do some entertaining of other close friends who have a similar sense of humour as you do for some fun.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Privately conversing with your family today can make the days ahead much brighter. Plan for the days ahead wisely and you can be very successful.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Get together with allies today at some new project which is modern and which can be mutually profitable to those involved with the endeavour.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You can get the aid of a bigwig today where a practical affair is concerned and show this individual your abilities. Be clever at your career activities.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get into new outlets which can help to bring you greater assets at this time. You may find persons of different backgrounds of help to you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Be more charming with your mate today and enjoy greater harmony and love. Show gratitude towards your loved ones in some special manner.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Get expert advice from fellow associates who can help you to understand a new acquaintance. Become more involved in social activities.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can easily gain the attention of a bigwig today who can assist you in attaining your finest aims towards being successful.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You are highly inspired to gain your ambitions at this time and you should get right to work on your ideas. Dress nicely and be generous.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A large multinational company opening a representative office in Amman requires:

### SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Must have:

- Certificate or degree in business, commerce or other relevant field.
- Excellent secretarial skills such as typing, filing, scheduling, self correspondence, etc.
- Equal mastery of English and Arabic
- Excellent working knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Harvard Graphics or equivalent PC programs
- Minimum 3 years experience, preferably in a multinational environment

In addition to the above and in view of the expanded responsibilities that the position entails the ideal candidate will have:

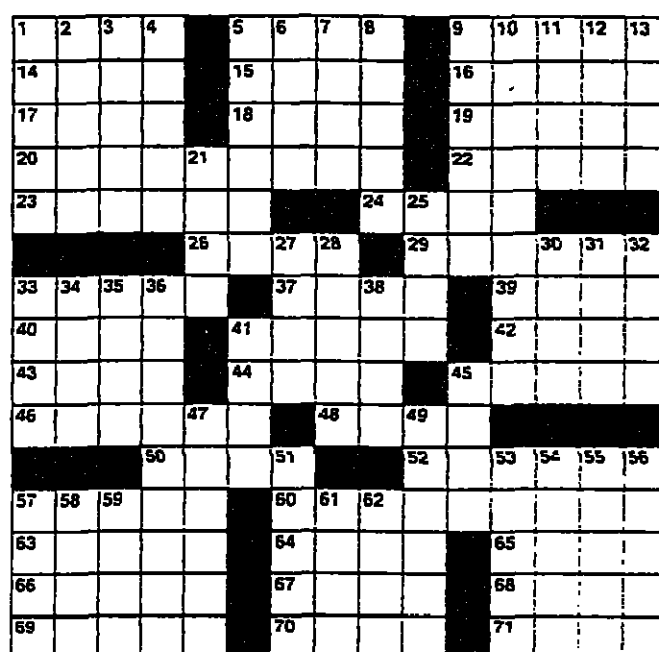
- Some fluency with numbers
- The ability to grasp basic business concepts
- The ability and eagerness to handle and coordinate various projects and a strong personality that allows her to grow in her job, acquire more responsibilities and deal confidently with customers, suppliers and colleagues.

Please apply in strictest confidence with photo, references and full C.V. to:

Mr. FADI R.K. CHAHROURI  
P.O. BOX 5414  
AMMAN

## THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger

- ACROSS
- Dispute
  - Roe source
  - Despots
  - Tide's partner
  - Young salmon
  - Logger's contest
  - about (circa)
  - Killer whale
  - Video's partner
  - Baked potato
  - topping
  - Cary or Ulysses
  - Threadneedle, e.g.
  - Encompassed by
  - Printing error
  - have danced all night
  - Humiliate
  - Acts human
  - Am. info. org.
  - Composer Edouard
  - Vernacular
  - Pesky insect
  - In — of
  - Without water
  - Dishonor
  - Hi-fi
  - Snout
  - Snare
  - Threat words
  - Car or chair
  - Hard candies
  - Seed used for flavoring
  - English composer
  - Far from slack
  - Harbors
  - Permits
  - Concerning
  - Winty precipitation
  - Arguable
  - Slangy negative



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SIWAMP	HOSIS	STA
RIVER	ERTIE	ITEM
ISIERE	IDLE	NORM
PROFUSION	TARA	
ETTIE	TARTAN	
CIAMERIA	TOFU	
APIEX	HEAR	ASTRO
TRIACT	ERA	RIATA
SAIALLY	LAMP	OLEST
UKIES	ERNEST	
CHOSEIN	PIARE	
RAINI	COILUSION	
ALTO	OVAL	TATAR
NIEGIN	RICE	OGIVE
ESIP	EDEN	NOSIED

- DOWN
- Facing a glacier
  - Wine grape
  - Love affair
  - Haute, IN
  - Flashy in attire
  - Hulch animal

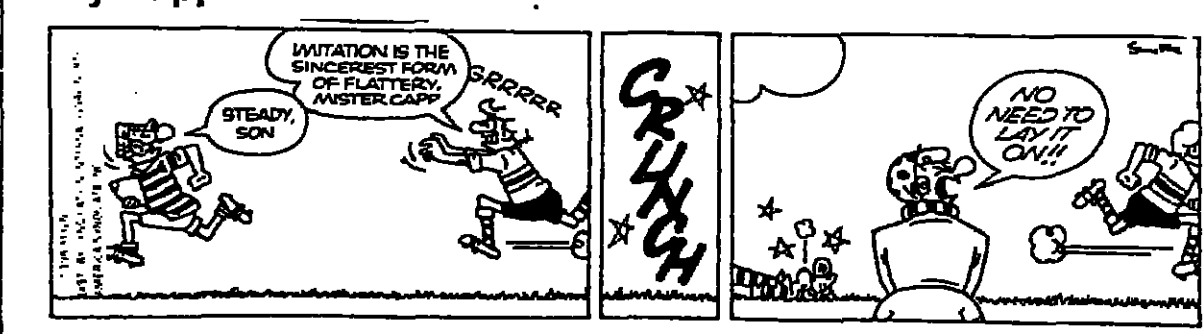
- Medieval chest
- Play
- Calamitous
- Prospector
- Alan or Robert
- Bridle part
- Chimney dirt
- Whale
- Water vapor
- Pansian papa
- Church instrument
- Certain school: abbr.
- Novelist O'Flaherty
- Fruit
- Well That...
- Fishing need
- Nautical term
- Lemon feature
- Newspaper section, briefly
- Celebes ox
- European
- Borgnine
- Most tender

- Sacred song
- Use room service
- Grassy plain
- Eat noisily
- Cosmetician
- Lauder
- Weakens
- Organic compound
- Vor — (twitness exam)
- Cookie word

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Business

Egypt and Jordan will lay the foundation for their first joint oil refinery at a cost of 190 million near the Mediterranean city of Sidi Barrani, the head of the Egyptian firm Merhaby said. The financing of the project has been completed by a \$280 million loan provided in the past by the European Investment Bank. Vessels can begin work at the end of the year, he said, adding that investment project would reach \$1 billion.

## Jordan classified

Jordan IS classified as the second in the area of heart surgery and the first in the region to treat heart disease. The Al Waed Party.

Dr. Muasher, who is also president of the Conservation of Nature, and agencies are eyeing Jordan to treat heart disease, including the expenses of \$50,000 in the U.S. according to the speaker, who is the Jordanian pharmaceutical export-oriented sector and industries. He said that Jordan's reach \$150 million per year in exports to 6,000 workers.

Dr. Muasher referred to the Jordanian pharmaceutical export-oriented sector and industries. He said that Jordan's reach \$150 million per year in exports to 6,000 workers.

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## Egypt and Israel to build first joint private oil refinery

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt and Israel will lay the foundation stone for their first joint private oil refinery at the end of 1996 near the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, the head of the Israeli firm Merhav said.

"The financing of the project has been completed thanks to a \$280 million credit provided in the past few days by the European Investment Bank," Yossef Maiman told AFP.

"We can begin work at the end of the year," he said, adding that investment in the project would reach \$1.25 billion.

Merhav and Egyptian businessman Hussein Salem each hold 40 per cent equity share in the "Environmental Friendly" project, with the remaining 20 per cent held by Egypt's National Petroleum Company.

By the year 2000 the refinery will be able to refine five million tonnes of crude oil per year.

"Between 50 and 60 per cent of the production will be for Egypt while 20 to 30 per cent for Israel, and the rest could be sold abroad, namely to Turkey or Greece," Mr. Maiman said.

According to Mr. Maiman, annual turnover will be around \$750 to \$800 million once the refinery is operating at full capacity.

Mr. Maiman said he was not worried about the consequences of any eventual political tensions between Israel and Egypt.

"Over the past 17 years Egypt has delivered all the oil it had pledged to Israel within the framework of the 1979 peace treaty," he said.

Mr. Salem, meanwhile, stressed that the refinery will generate 300 direct jobs and 1,200 other indirect jobs.

He underscored the "multinational" aspect of the project, noting that French, American and Spanish financial organisations will be providing technical advice.

## Italian textile institution opens vocational training programme with Jordan tomorrow

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—Reflecting the increasing interest of Italian textile sector firms in making contacts and initiating projects with Jordanian counterparts as well as strengthening already existing ties, ACIMIT, the Italian Association of Textile Machinery Producers, will Tuesday inaugurate a joint vocational training project with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) here.

The ACIMIT one-day mission, organised in cooperation with the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade (ICE) and held under the patronage of the Italian embassy, will include meetings with

VTC's senior officials as well as an at-length presentation of the joint ACIMIT-VTC training project.

Under such project, five Jordanian textile instructors, nominated by the VTC, will attend a training course in Italy next autumn to "follow up the new Italian techniques and know-how in the field of textile machinery," Talal Shahin, the ICE representative in Amman, said.

During the meeting, a series of three booklets specifically edited for textile schools will be distributed to the students and the teachers of the VTC.

"The booklets aim at providing a comprehensive picture of the high

technological level as well as of the production and commercial potential of the Italian textile machinery industry," Mr. Shahin added.

"The main objective of ACIMIT mission is to provide fellowships and training for our students," VTC's Hani Khleifat told the Jordan Times.

This is going to be ACIMIT's third visit to Amman. The first mission was held in March 1994, while the second was held in March of this year.

During ACIMIT's last visit, Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan proposed the establishment of a textile, clothing and leather institute

in the Kingdom, and asked Italian public and private institutions for technical support.

"The project has not been launched yet," commented Mr. Khleifat, "but the training courses offered by ACIMIT to our students could be considered a first step towards its implementation."

"The keenness shown by Italian and Jordanian textile sector firms to make contacts and establish joint ventures could be explained by the mutual benefits that both parties can achieve," said commercial attaché at the Italian embassy, Laura Ciampoli.

While Italy can provide high-technology machinery and advanced know-

how, Ms. Ciampoli stressed that Jordan can offer to its counterpart low-cost man-power and fairly good investment facilities.

She added that previous successful experiences of Italian-Jordanian joint ventures in the textile sector are encouraging businessmen from both countries to launch new joint-projects.

Among them, the joint venture between the Italian textile group GFT and the Jordanian ready wear manufacturing company El Zay, established in 1993, is widely seen by sector analysts and businessmen as one of the most successful.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Jordan classified as second after U.S. in heart surgery

\*\* JORDAN IS classified as the second country after the U.S. in the area of heart surgery and the Kingdom will be the centre for the region to treat heart patients, the secretary-general of the Al Wa'ed Party, Anis Muasher, said in a lecture.

Dr. Muasher, who is also president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, added that U.S. insurance companies are eyeing Jordan to treat heart patients as the cost, including the expenses of stay, is about \$20,000 compared to \$80,000 in the U.S.

According to the speaker, who is also a former minister, the Jordanian pharmaceutical industry is the most important export-oriented sector after the phosphate and potash industries. He said that Jordan exports of pharmaceuticals reach \$150 million per year and that this industry employ about 6,000 workers.

Noting that Jordan has become a centre for the pharmaceutical industry in the region, Dr. Muasher said that Jordanian companies are seeking to attract foreign pharmaceutical partners. He emphasised that a number of major firms are on their way to join the Kingdom's drug industries. Dr. Muasher referred to the agreements signed with Algeria in the medical sphere and noted that Jordanian companies can compete for \$300 million of the \$600 million drug market in the North African country. He saw the possibility of selling Algeria drugs worth \$50 million a year during 1998 and 1999. (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

### Abbadi names bank 'Amaneh'

\*\* "AMANEH BANK" is the name of the bank that Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi has in mind to expand the resources of funds for the Municipality of Greater Amman. He said in an interview that he thought of setting up a bank by the municipality alone or in partnership with the Social Security Corporation but, after discussing the matter with the governor of the Central Bank, the concept has not taken shape yet nor the idea has been dropped. "We are still thinking and looking for financial resources other than fees," he told the daily. Dr. Abbadi said the municipality's JD 65 million budget for 1996 comes mainly from fees like any other municipality in the world. He mentioned fees from construction licences, professional permits, organisational work as main sources of revenues in addition to income from advertisement fees and traffic violations (Al Ra'i).

## Arab banks seen needing liberal lending policies

DUBAI (R) — Arab Gulf banks and financial institutions will slow efforts to boost industrial investment in their oil-driven economies unless they adopt more liberal lending policies, industry executives have said.

"I find it easier to talk to European banks and foreign banks than to talk to our own institutions. And they (Gulf banks) boast about being able to finance projects here. In the end they always ask you to guarantee it," said Khalid Al Zayani, chairman of Bahrain-based, Al Zayani Investments.

"If we are going to create an industrial base, we must also provide a financing base. Gulf banks are missing out because this financing is going to outsiders. It will discourage industrial investment. Manufacturers are unable to come to local banks and convince them this is a viable project," he told Reuters.

Arab Gulf states have launched a drive to diversify their economies to reduce vulnerability to fluctuations in oil prices. But the campaign is in its early stages and efforts to privatise — which goes hand-in-hand with diversification — are moving slowly.

Experts have said Gulf banks should merge and liberalise the congested sector to increase capital

bases, compete with international banks and boost lending capacity. There are over 100 indigenous banks in the oil-rich region.

Paul Papadopoulos, chief economist at the Arab Banking Corp., said banks would take more lending risks if Gulf states imposed stricter rules on financial transparency.

Mr. Al Zayani said Gulf banks were too cautious in their approach to industrial projects and were unwilling to take risks on newcomers or small businesses.

"They don't look at your track record. They are looking at you because you are this family and they want your signature to guarantee it," he explained.

Many Gulf economies are dominated by a handful of powerful family enterprises, which deal in everything from construction to consumables.

Emirates Bank international chief executive officer Anis Al Jallaf said banks needed legislation to become more aggressive lenders.

"The legislation sometimes does not support the banks when there is a problem. If I lend and there is a problem and I have to recoup my money, I cannot foreclose (a loan) because legislation does not give me that right immediately," he said.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SIDDIQIYAH											
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 17/11/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADS.	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
252.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	13.4	1.43	4	180	44100	246.00	245.00	1.00	
3.800	2.900	BANK OF JORDAN	10.5	0.00	2	5100	47900	2.90	2.90	0.00	
1.250	.880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	68.3	0.00	25	9500	9952	1.01	1.04	.03	
3.040	2.450	JOR. KAWAT BANK	18.1	0.00	6	230	571	2.50	2.50	0.00	
1.200	.880	JOR. GULF BANK	5.2	7.87	20	115000	102350	.89	.89	0.00	
4.180	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.4	0.00	4	250	909	3.68	3.62	.06	
1.590	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	10	2586	2968	1.17	1.19	.02	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 187.56	CHG: -0.36	71	132896	175639				
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	12.0	7.55	4	7905	12565	1.59	1.59	0.00	
1.850	1.080	MATL. PORTFOLIO	6.9	0.00	10	3250	3583	1.13	1.10	.03	
1.050	.880	JOR. MONSTER HILLS	20.4	4.05	1	3500	3200	.88	.88	0.00	
1.260	.890	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	30.3	0.00	1	200	118	.61	.59	.02	
3.660	3.130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	13.5	5.83	5	1650	5643	3.40	3.42	.02	
1.270	.960	ZAKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	1000	1030	1.04	1.03	.01	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 108.79	CHG: +0.09	23	17505	26158				
3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.6	3.08	8	785	2545	3.27	3.25	.02	
3.550	2.710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	32.3	0.00	3	1200	3600	3.00	3.00	0.00	
5.960	4.780	ARAB POTASH CO.	17.4	3.48	3	1200	7103	5.70	5.75	.05	
10.550	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.2	8.82	8	205	1859	9.12	9.07	.05	
3.750	1.450	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	26.2	0.00	1	600	1170	1.95	.95	0.00	
8.150	6.420	GENERAL TEXTING	8.8	3.62	1	1000	6900	6.90	.90	0.00	
4.870	3.200	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	17.2	6.39	12	2075	6503	3.16	3.16	0.00	
2.600	2.050	JORDAN DAIRY	13.2	6.98	1	5000	10750	2.15	2.15	0.00	
2.420	1.660	JOR. PAPER MANUFACT.	8.9	7.50	4	2100	3413	1.68	1.60	.08	
3.210	2.600	GENERAL TEXTING	6.5	11.76	2	403	1018	2.52	2.55	.03	
8.000	4.250	DAR ALDANA DV. INV.	12.0	4.55	4	2000	8920	4.25	4.40	.15	
5.800	3.130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.2	9.09	1	200	660	3.40	3.30	.10	
960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.0	0.00	54	77300	38956	.53	.52	.01	
3.340	2.580	NATIONAL INDS.	7.8	4.62	2	1000	3250	3.34	3.25	.09	
1.090	.850	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	8.1	10.91	2	800	440	.56	.55	.01	
1.840	.940	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	13	5350	5027	.97	.94	.03	
4.250	2.200	NATL. CABLE WIRE MFG.	14.1	0.00	1	250	578	2.21	2.21	0.00	
1.910	1.080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	21.9	0.00	2	750	878	1.18	1.17	.01	
3.280	2.460	UNIV. MED. INDS.	4.5	13.31	6	4350	6443	1.52	1.48	.04	
4.100	3.400	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	17.0	0.00	6	1750	3372	3.38	3.35	.03	
1.580	.890	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	23.9	0.00	8	1900	167	.90	.88	.02	
1.460	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	25.4	0.00	2	2700	2916	1.09	1.08	.01	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.39	CHG: -0.05	147	112968	116965				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 147.04	CHG: -0.21	241	263369	318763				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 17/11/1996											
+.790	.440	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	22.9	0.00	6	44600	28038	.60	.57	.03	
+.800	.540	JOR. TRADE FAC.	14.1	0.00	2	350	186	.54	.53	.01	
+.950	.440	NATL. COMMER. CENTERS	8	0.00	4	1100	512	.48	.46	.02	
+.930	.700	USTON INV. 501	67.0	0.00	12	28250	5707	.71	.70	.01	
+.1210	.430	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	16	40550	16641	.43	.41	.02	
+.950	.700	AL-DARAFIN 751	15.6	0.00	6	9390	4141	.71	.69	.02	
+.640	.340	JOR. INDUS. MACHS-JEMCO	8	0.00	2	1500	825	.35	.35	0.00	
+.1330	.630	UNIV. METALS	8	0.00	3	1550	977	.63	.63	0.00	
+.860	.510	ARAB ROAD & MED.	8	0.00	1	200	122	.46	.61	.03	
+.1000	.520	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	11	9550	3753	.48	.46	.02	
+.1100	.470	NATL. MULT. ENG. MANICO	8	0.00	15	65500	30485	.47	.45	.02	
+.1080	.750	JORDAN STEEL	8	0.00	12	28400	21300	.75	.75	0.00	
+.780	.430	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	8	0.00	2	400	192	.49	.48	.01	
+.1330	.080	UNION TOBACCO 751	8	0.00	3	1050	861	1.09	1.07	.02	
+.840	.600	RAZI PHARM. 651	24.6	0.00	14	12800	2982	.61	.58	.03	
+.830	.420	INDOS. ENG.	24.6	0.00	5	4850	5765	.42	.40	.02	
+.1430	.770	INDOS. CERAMIC	8	0.00	14	14250	3783	.80	.78	.02	
+.1500	.530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	7.4	0.00	21	231100	145831	.66	.63	.03	
GRAND TOTAL					154	499160	275187				
+: New 12 months low -: Listed during the past 12 months P: P/E ratio is 100 or more G: Negative P/E E: Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PALPY

OXTIN

YERRAF

YALMES

Answer: TO [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SOOTY KNELL PAROLE ECZEMA  
 Answer: What the cameraman used to photograph the auto race - A "ZOOM" LENS

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## ***Faisali reconsider decision to suspend soccer activities***

The commission has two more cities to visit — Buenos Aires and Rio De Janeiro — before announcing its final cut of four or five cities in March.

# GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TANNAH HIRSCH  
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## COUNT ON IT

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**

♠ 9  
♥ A764  
♦ A Q J  
♣ A873

**EAST**

♠ A K J  
♥ K Q 5  
♦ 8 4 3  
♣ Q J 10 3

**WEST**

♣ Q10843  
♥ 7 2  
♦ 10962  
♠ 984

**SOUTH**

♥ T52  
♦ 10983  
♣ K76  
♠ K5

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣

Opening lead: Four of ♠

Yesterday we showed how you can deduce the location of key cards from the bidding and play. Here's another example of an auction where placing the missing high cards is a matter of simple arithmetic.

South judged the hand well to jump to four hearts. Both kings behind the no-trump bidder have the equivalent of aces, and the fifth heart and ruffing value in clubs

gave the hand excellent playing potential.

West led a spade, and declarer ruffed ♣ 22 points in the combined North-South holding. That left just 18 for East-West, almost all of them in the East hand. If West died here an honor, it was likely to be in spades, the defender's long suit.

Barry was fortunate. 2-2 split in hearts, declarer held the prospect of losing two trump tricks in addition to two spades. To avoid that fate, declarer had to reduce his trump length to that of East, and then engineer an endplay. Interestingly, the preliminary maneuvers involved almost no ruff!

East won the king and ace of spades, then shifted to the queen of clubs. Declarer won in hand, cashed three rounds of diamonds and the ace of clubs, then ruffed a club. A spade ruff in dummy was the entry to cash the last club. Fortunately, East followed to the fourth club, and declarer's analysis was vindicated when West could not overruff the last club.

All hands were now down to three cards. Declarer ran the jack of hearts to East's queen, and the defender could do nothing other than return a heart away from the king into declarer's combined tenace. Making four-odd!

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**Jordan's  
25 points  
help keep  
Bulls  
undefeated**

GO (R) — Michael Jordan scored 25 points as the Chicago Bulls remained unbeaten in the league's only unbeaten season with a 97-60 rout of the Atlanta Hawks, extending their franchise-record to 10-0 Saturday. The Bulls have won their last 10 games by an average of 19.8 points and are going to get tougher, Jordan said. "We have to maintain our edge and not think that we're better than everyone else," he said.

New Kerr added 12 points and Dennis Rodman 10 for Chicago, which has won its last three games by at least 33 points. Grant Hill led Cleveland, Grant Hill scored 27 points, including six in a row down the stretch, and the Detroit Pistons made 14 free throws in the last four minutes for a 98-88 victory over the Cavaliers, their first in Cleveland in nearly five years.

Indey Hunter scored 23 and Otis Thorpe led 18 for the Pistons (8-1) who off to their best since 1988.

and eight of his 22  
in the final 1:16  
taking two free throws  
and seconds left, to lift  
Lubbock Jazz to an 88-87  
win over the Dallas

Houston. Clyde Drexler scored 33 points. Hakeem Olajuwon had 11 rebounds to lift once-beaten Houston to a 115-103 victory.

Charles Barkley added 10 points and 18 rebounds for the Warriors (8-1). Drexler was 14-20 from the field.

going only 3-for-15  
the last two games.  
Bill Sprewell scored  
points and Chris Mullin  
at Golden State  
Miami. Rex Walters hit  
the game-winning shot.

Philadelphia 76ers to a 91-70 victory over the Miami Heat.

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Jordan's 25 points help keep Bulls undefeated

CHICAGO (R) — Michael Jordan scored 25 points as the Chicago Bulls remained the league's only unbeaten team with a 97-69 rout of the Atlanta Hawks, extending their franchise-record start to 10-0 Saturday.

The Bulls have won their first 10 games by an average of 19.8 points.

"It's going to get tougher for us," said Jordan. "We just have to maintain our focus and not think that we're better than everyone else."

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In Cleveland, Grant Hill scored 27 points, including six in a row down the stretch, and the Detroit Pistons made 14 free throws in the last four minutes for a 102-98 victory over the Cavaliers, their first in Cleveland in nearly five years.

Lindsey Hunter scored 23 points and Otis Thorpe added 18 for the Pistons (8-1), who off to their best start since 1988.

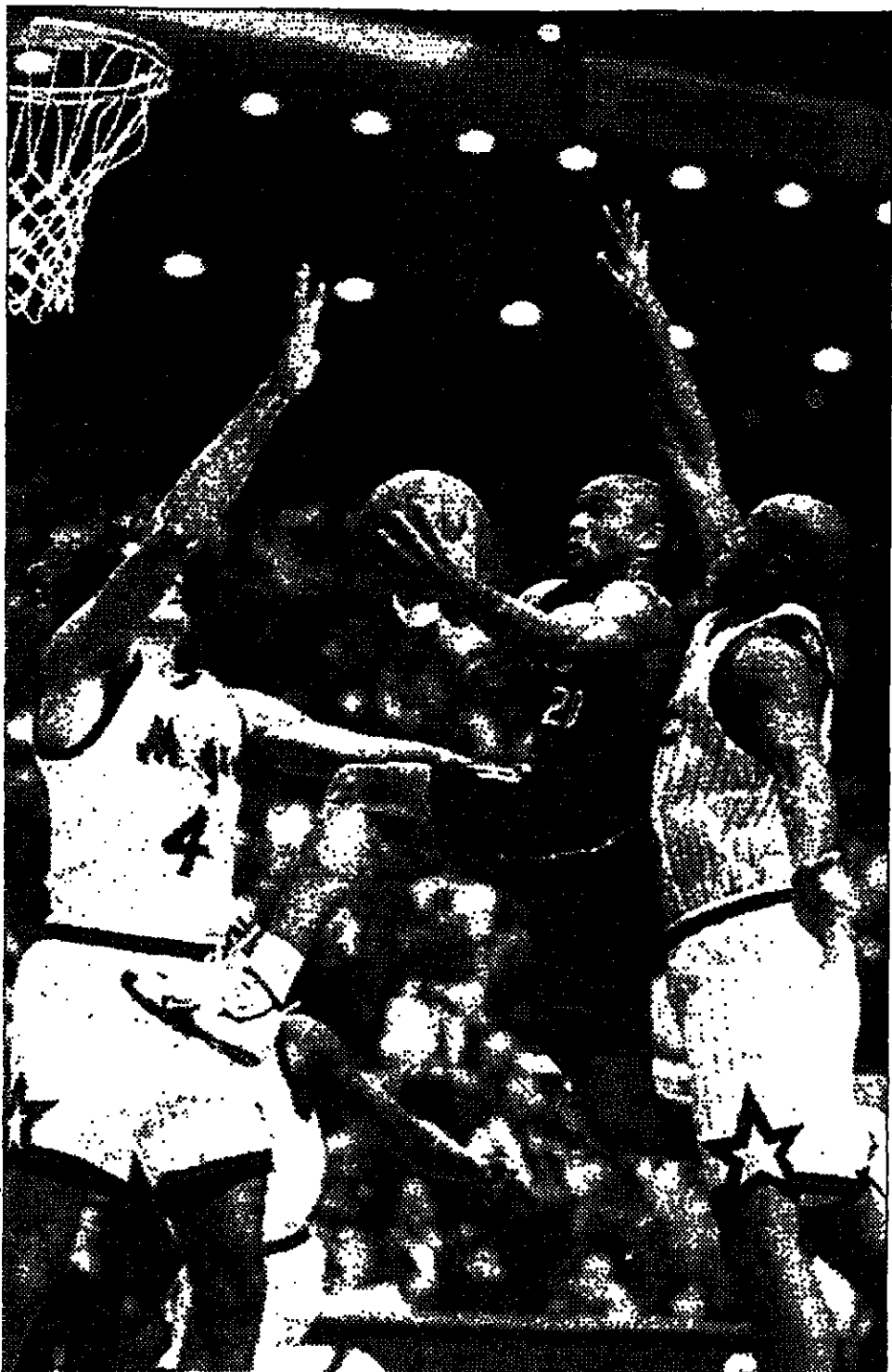
In Dallas, John Stockton scored eight of his 23 points in the final 1:16, including two free throws with two seconds left, to lift the Utah Jazz to an 88-87 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

In Houston, Clyde Drexler scored 33 points and Hakeem Olajuwon had 23 and nine rebounds to lift the once-beaten Houston Rockets to a 115-103 victory over the struggling Golden State Warriors.

Charles Barkley added 10 points and 18 rebounds for Houston (8-1). Drexler was 14-of-20 from the field after going only 3-for-15 over the last two games.

Latrell Sprewell scored 22 points and Chris Mullin 20 for Golden State. In Miami, Rex Walters hit a three-pointer with 33 seconds remaining to rally the Philadelphia 76ers to a 91-89 victory over the Miami Heat.

At New Jersey, Kendall Gill scored a season-high



Toronto Raptors guard Damon Stoudamire (20) goes high to score over Orlando Magic centre Rony Seikaly (L) as Derek Strong (R) moves in, during first quarter action in the Orlando Arena. Orlando won 92-87 (Reuters photo)

32 points to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 106-99 victory over the Denver Nuggets for coach John Calipari's first NBA win.

The Nets, who lost their first five games, also scored more than 100 points for the first time this season. Rookie Kerry Kittles had 19 points for New Jersey.

In New York, Patrick Ewing had 26 points and 15 rebounds and Charlie Ward snapped a tie with a driving layup with 2:07 left as the New York Knicks defeated the Minnesota Timberwolves for the 11th straight time, 82-79.

Ewing scored nine points in the final four minutes of the third quarter, helping New York erase a 10-point deficit.

Starks scored 11 of his 13 in the second half and Larry Johnson added 13 for the Knicks, who have won five of six.

In Orlando, Nick Anderson scored 25 points, including two three-pointers in the final 99 seconds, and added 11 rebounds as the Orlando Magic won their fourth straight game, defeating the Toronto Raptors, 92-87.

Anderson stepped up in the absence of injured superstar guard Penny Hardaway. Centre Rony Seikaly also picked up the scoring slack, adding a season-high 17 points and nine rebounds off the bench.

In Washington, reserve

Chris Whitney scored six of his 11 points in a key fourth-quarter run as the Washington Bullets held the Boston Celtics scoreless for the final 6:06 in a 106-92 comeback victory.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored 12 of his 25 points in the third quarter, as the Seattle SuperSonics rolled to a 108-96 victory over the Sacramento Kings, their sixth straight triumph.

Gary Payton scored 19 points and Detlef Schrempf added 16 for Seattle, which outscored the Kings in each quarter and led by as many as 14 points in the first half. Mitch Richmond had 27 points for the Kings.

## Hingis confident she will spoil Graf-Seles showdown

NEW YORK (AFP) — Steffi Graf and Monica Seles have the year's top records entering the season-ending WTA Championships, but a 16-year-old Swiss sensation might just swipe the spotlight from both of them.

Martina Hingis, who beat Monica Seles a week ago in their first-ever meeting, likes her chances in the WTA's two million-dollar showdown that begins here Monday.

"I have a good chance. I can beat any player," Hingis said. "I have to keep playing like I have the past several weeks. But there are still 15 other players there."

None are hotter than Hingis, who became the youngest player in tennis history to win one million dollars. She beat Seles 6-2, 6-0, in 52 minutes last week in a final to reach a career-best ranking of sixth in the world.

"There's no doubt she is going to be a force," Seles said. "She is so young and she is only going to get better. That's the scary part."

Hingis won her first two WTA titles in the past two months and achieved a goal by reaching the 16-player championship. She has beaten nine of the world's 10 top-ranked players this year and is already a Grand Slam threat.

"It's always hard to see into the future," Hingis said. "But I think I am on the right way. Reaching the WTA Championships was one of my biggest goals and I made it. I am really happy with my tennis right now."

Hingis, who opens against Romania's Irina Spirlea, faces a possible second-round rematch with Seles, who would first have to inflict a career-ending defeat upon Japan's Kimiko Date.

Date, Japan's greatest tennis star, plans to retire after this event, ending a career that featured three consecutive Japan Open titles and the first top-10 ranking ever for a Japanese

player. She sparked a generation of top-100 players that will extend her legacy for years to come.

The player to beat for the \$500,000 top prize remains Graf. The German opens against Slovakia's Karina Habudova after receiving a boost to her spirits off the court.

Peter Graf, Steffi's father, was released from a German jail Friday on \$3.3 million bail after spending 15 months there on tax evasion charges.

His daughter's emotions have been on edge during his incarceration. But Steffi has withstood the troubles to win U.S. Open.

French Open and Wimbledon titles despite lingering soreness in her left knee.

Graf has also won the German open, Key Biscayne and Indian Wells titles to help reclaim sole possession of the world number one ranking earlier this month when Seles fell to co-number two.

Despite Graf's record run of 359 weeks at the top, it is her showing here that will show whether or not she keeps that status.

Graf has won the WTA Championships in 1987, 1989, 1993 and last year. Seles won from 1990-1992.

Spaniards Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez are also top threats. Sanchez opens against Dutch veteran Brenda Schultz-McCarthy. Martinez plays first against Austria's Judith Wiesner.

Other openers match Austria's Barbara Paulus against Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport, South Africa's Amanda Coetzer against Czech Jana Novotna and Croatia's Iva Majoli against Germany's Anke Huber.

## Woodbridge and Woodforde close in on victory

HARTFORD, Connecticut (R) — Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde proved Saturday it will take a huge effort to prevent them from winning their second Phoenix/ATP World Doubles Championship.

The top-ranked Australians needed only 60 minutes to eliminate the No. 2 team of Grant Connell of Canada and Byron Black of Zimbabwe, 6-3 6-3, in the semifinals.

The Woodies will be in the title round Sunday against Texan Alex O'Brien and Canadian Sebastian Lareau, who advanced with a tight 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (7-4) victory over Trevor Kronemann of the U.S. and David MacPherson of Australia.

"It didn't feel as easy as it looked," said Woodbridge, who lost his service in the first game to help put his team behind 2-0. "I was a little nervous at the start and we felt the pressure."

If the Woodies are successful, they would be the

first doubles team to win the world title, the U.S. Open, Wimbledon and Olympic gold in the same year. "That would be the icing on the cake for us," said Woodbridge.

After that early service loss by Woodbridge, the Aussies were just about perfect. They broke Connell to level the match at 3-3, then broke Black in the eighth game, forcing the Zimbabwe athlete into crucial volley errors. In the next game, Woodbridge served out the set after overcoming two break points.

The second set took only 29 minutes, with the Woodies finding the comfort zone with their returns to gain two service breaks. Black double-faulted on match point.

"Coming off a quick match today, we'll both be better prepared physically for the finals," said Woodforde. "And we wanted to prove that last night (los-

ing to O'Brien and Lareau) was just a blip."

"We had our opportunities, especially in the first set," said Connell, "but we didn't really play our best match today."

"When they were down, they mixed it up well — they chipped at our feet and used the lob," noted Black. "That's why they're such a good team. They can adjust."

Even with the loss, which made them 0-5 against the Woodies in '96, Connell felt the year has been good to his team. "We still have to be happy with our year, finishing with the No. 2 ranking," he said.

O'Brien and Lareau won the long (58 minutes) first set after squandering three set points in the breaker and being down one set point to Kronemann and MacPherson at 8-7.

Finally, at 9-8 with their fourth set point, O'Brien and Lareau won it on Kro-

nemann's double-fault.

In the second set, O'Brien and Lareau had to overcome a set point at 5-6 before forcing the second tiebreaker.

With a 6-4 lead in the breaker, O'Brien served an ace to end it.

"I just wanted to close it out and I was lucky to hammer the serve down the middle," said O'Brien. "Things just seemed to go our way today."

O'Brien and Lareau surprised the Woodies with a comeback victory in Friday's round robin. "Like we tried to do the first time — we're just going to relax and have fun," said O'Brien. "What the heck, we could have been on a plane on the way home by now."

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# Israel says it wants peace, accuses Syria of making nerve gas

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said Sunday that Israel wanted peace with Syria but would retaliate harshly if attacked.

"The message is one of peace and calm," Mr. Mordechai told Israel Radio. But, "if someone tries to threaten us, to use their weapons against us... they must take into account that Israel has an exceptional military ability that will be used in defence and to harm the other side," he said.

Mr. Mordechai added that Israel knew Syria was developing chemical weapons and said the Jewish state would respond harshly if such arms were used against it.

Mr. Mordechai again appealed to Israel's arch-foe to renew peace talks deadlocked over the fate of the Golan Heights Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and the terms of peace.

"We know that in Syria they're manufacturing chemical products for military purposes," Mr. Mordechai said. He said some were being made with the help of the Russians.

"I hope that they'll never use it, certainly not against us. But we cannot overlook it. We must take the threats into account and so we do."

Israel and Syria have accused each other over the last month of preparing for war.

Citing an interview he gave the Sunday Times published in London on Sunday, Mr. Mordechai said: "When I was asked a concrete question what will happen when they (Syria) will use this weaponry against us — and the threat of the Syrian defence minister was

emphasised — I said if someone will dare to turn this kind of weaponry on us, it's clear we will act with all of the means in our possession, we will hit hard at Syria and obviously the regime will also be at risk."

"It's better for them not to do this and find other ways for us to be able to resolve conflicts," he told the radio. He urged Syria "to return to the negotiating table, to stop the tension and find every way possible to enter into talks and reach, I hope, in the end peace."

"We don't want war, we want peace. Arab states well know the strength of the state of Israel, believe me," he said.

On-off Syrian-Israeli peace talks received a setback in June when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office and rejected trading Arab lands for peace, the principle underpinning Middle East peace negotiations since 1991.

Mr. Netanyahu has indicated he might be willing to cede some but not all of the strategic plateau that Syria demands back in its entirety in exchange for a peace agreement.

Recent military exercises by both armies in the area stirred fears that the threat of war had returned in the absence of peace talks.

On Saturday, a Syrian official said that Damascus wanted peace but did not rule out the possibility that Israel may resort to war to deflect pressure for a peace settlement.

"We all have to calm down and not threaten one another. We need to sit down and find other formulas," Mr. Mordechai said.

Syria on Sunday attacked

Mr. Netanyahu's policy of "occupation" particularly in the West Bank town of Hebron and said the situation in the Palestinian territories was explosive.

"The situation in the occupied territories is explosive because of the position and practices of Mr. Netanyahu's government on occupation and its refusal to implement the accords concluded between the previous Israeli government" and the Palestinians, the Syrian government daily Tishrin said.

"The attempts to modify the Hebron accord by imposing unfair and disgraceful conditions for the Palestinians clearly show Israel's lack of seriousness and its desire to continue the occupation" of Arab land, the paper said.

Tishrin also criticised the recent proposal by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind to set up an organisation in the Middle East modelled on the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) aimed at resolving regional conflict.

"The most important problem that should have the attention of the British government is the (Israeli) occupation, which is creating... a state of war threatening the region," the paper said.

It described Mr. Rifkind's scheme as a "lifeline sent to save Israeli extremism and the policies of Benjamin Netanyahu" and said it ignored the realities on the ground.

Mr. Rifkind's idea was put forward "at a time when the people of the Near East are waiting for more effective measures for the resumption of the peace process," Tishrin said.



DISARRAY AT FOOD SUMMIT: Protesters disrupt the final news conference at the U.N. sponsored World Food Summit and scuffle with security on Sunday. Several leaders, including Cuban President Fidel Castro, watched from the podium as the demonstrators were removed. The summit closed with ringing calls to end hunger but with deep differences about how to do it, highlighted by U.S. reservations over a blueprint for feeding the planet (see page 4)

## Britain signs \$830m arms deal with Qatar

DOHA (Agencies) — Britain clinched a major defence contract Sunday to supply warplanes, armoured personnel carriers and fast patrol boats to oil-rich Qatar.

The \$830 million deal was signed by British Defence Secretary Michael Portillo and Qatar's minister of state, Sheikh Ahmad Bin Saif Al Thani in Doha, an embassy spokesman said.

"I am not sure when the delivery will begin as it will take a while because they have to be built according to specification given by Doha," he told Reuters.

The deal involves GKN armoured personnel carriers (APCs), Vespene Thornycroft patrol boats, British Aerospace Hawk trainer aircraft, and Starburst missiles by Shorts missile systems, a joint venture between Short Brothers and France's Thomson-CSF.

Mr. Portillo said after talks in Doha last month that he had offered a comprehensive Gulf security proposal to Qatar.

Diplomats said the offer was part of a British bid to find a fresh foothold in Gulf states from where it voluntarily withdrew in 1971.

Britain is also competing

with American and French arms manufacturers to sell 50 main battle tanks to Qatar's 8,000-strong army.

Both France and Britain have close military ties with Qatar and supply major arms requirements for its army.

Qatar has signed defence deals with the United States, France and Britain.

All three Western powers have defence treaties with Qatar, whose natural gas reserves — the world's third largest after those of Russia and Iran — make it one of the most strategic sources of vital clean energy in the next century.

Gulf Arab security concerns following Iraq's lightning invasion of Kuwait in 1990 have turned the region into a lucrative arms market, industry sources and diplomats say.

It was the second large defence contract for Britain in a week. Australia announced a one billion pounds (\$1.66 billion) order for Hawk aircraft last Monday.

The sale to Qatar marked the first large arms deal for Britain in the Gulf for years. The British have lost out to the United States and France in weapons sales to the oil-rich region.

## 5 activists held after West Bank explosion

KABATIYA (AFP) — Palestinian police on Sunday arrested five members of the militant group Hamas in connection with a mysterious explosion which left one Palestinian dead.

The explosion on Saturday in this northern West Bank village killed Muhammad Assaf Kneil in what the Israeli army called a "work accident" as he was allegedly preparing a bomb for an anti-Israeli attack.

Israelis said Kneil, 34, was a known member of the radical Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

A Palestinian intelligence official investigating the explosion told AFP that Palestinian police arrested five Hamas members Sunday in Kabatiya, a village under joint Israeli-Palestinian control near the self-rule enclave of Jenin.

Kneil was blown to pieces by the explosion in the small back garden of his house. No other people were injured in the explosion.

Kneil's family denied he was a member of Hamas and accused Israeli security services of putting the bomb in his garden.

"They killed him," Kneil's mother Zarifa said. "They had been threatening to kill or deport him for a long time."

"He was in the garden looking at the plants and asked his son to come in the house to get water. His son came to me inside to ask for the water and that's when we heard the explosion," she said.

"There were children all around the house, who could think he would be preparing a bomb with his own son and other kids nearby," his brother said.

"He was religious, but he was not connected to Hamas," he said.

Kneil had been held without charge in administrative detention four times by the Israeli military, mostly during the 1987-93 intifada, a Palestinian source said.

He was released from the most recent detention two months ago.

The explosion left a small crater a few centimetres deep in the garden, which is a few metres in area, but caused no damage to the house.

The Palestinian intelligence officer speculated the explosion may have been a pipe bomb. Hamas members arrested while preparing suicide bombing in the past have been caught with several kilograms of explosives.

Two suicide bombings in Israel in 1994 were carried out by Hamas militants from Kabatiya.

The officer said "all scenarios are open" in the investigation of Saturday's explosion, including both the possibility of a Hamas connection and of an assassination.

Israeli authorities are conducting their own investigation, but both Israeli and Palestinian security are sharing information on the incident, he said.

Israeli security services have been on alert for the past few weeks for possible suicide attacks by Hamas or the small Islamic Jihad movement, which has vowed to avenge the 1995 assassination of its leader by suspected Israeli agents.

Four suicide attacks, claimed by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, killed 58 people in Israel in February and March.

## Iranian protesters pelt German embassy with eggs and tomatoes

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Hundreds of demonstrators pelted the German embassy with rotten tomatoes and eggs on Sunday following German allegations that Iranian leaders were involved in the 1992 assassination of dissidents in Berlin.

The crowd tried to tear down the German flag flying above the compound in downtown Tehran but were stopped by some 400 police and security men who surrounded the embassy.

"An insult to our leaders is an insult to our nation," the crowd chanted.

The demonstration was organised by the Islamic Propagation Organisation, a state-run group responsible for promoting Islamic values. Such protests are usually organised by the Iranian government.

On Friday, German prosecutors recommended that Kazem Darabi, an alleged member of the Iranian intelligence, and another suspect be sentenced to life in prison for the September 1992 killings in Berlin of a Kurdish opposition leader and three aides.

They recommended prison sentences ranging from five years to 11 years for three other defendants being tried as accomplices.

German prosecutors have accused Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and President Hashemi Rafsanjani of complicity in the murders.

In March, German prosecutors issued an arrest warrant for Iran's intelligence chief, Ali Fallahian, on charges he ordered the assassinations.

Accusations that Iran's top leaders ordered the murders have unleashed a storm of protests in Iran, with newspapers calling on authorities to sever ties with Germany.

Germany is Iran's largest

Western trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding \$1.5 billion per year.

On Friday, more than 500 Iranians demonstrated in front of the German embassy to protest the German legal action.

Some 200 members of the Iranian parliament called on the government to reconsider diplomatic ties with Germany over charges of terrorism against Iranian leaders.

State-owned radio said some 200 of the 270 members of the legislature had endorsed a letter sent to Mr. Naeq Nuri saying that "Bonn does not deserve friendly ties with Tehran."

"The German judiciary has been turned into a political theatre with the aim of insulting Iran's sacred Islamic regime," the letter said.

The deputies urged the Foreign Ministry to "prepare a report on moves taken to reconsider relations" with Germany.

The deputies repeated charges here that Germany had supplied Iraq with chemical weapons and other military assistance during its 1980-1988 war against Iran, while Tehran "generously sought friendship and understanding" with Bonn.

Germany also hosted "terrorists and criminals," they said, referring to disgraced Iranian President Abol Hassan Bani Sadr, whose testimony led to the charges against the Iranian leaders.

The deputies also accused Bonn of "failing to honour financial agreements" with Iran which led to "billions of dollars in Iranian losses."

They were referring to Germany's refusal to complete a nuclear power plant started by Siemens company in the southern Iranian port of Bushehr before the 1979 Islamic revolution.

## Lebanon denies sending Arad evidence to Germany

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Lebanese official Sunday denied a report that the government was sending evidence to Germany with evidence that missing Israeli pilot Ron Arad is still alive.

"Lebanon has no intention of sending emissaries" to meet German secret services coordinator Bernd Schmidbauer, who is mediating between Israel and the pro-Iran Hizbollah, said the official who asked for anonymity.

Arad disappeared after his plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986. He is the only one of six missing Israeli servicemen still thought by Israel to be alive and in detention.

The British daily the Independent on Sunday said the Lebanese envoys would bring fingerprint proof to German authorities Sunday that Arad was still alive.

The trip by the two Lebanese emissaries was aimed at preparing for an exchange of prisoners between Israel and Arad's captors, the Independent said.

"The most important prisoner swap between Israel and its Arab enemies is over a decade may be approaching as two Lebanese government officials fly to Germany this weekend with what they say are the fingerprints of Ron Arad, an Israeli airman whom many had long given up dead," the newspaper said.

"The prints will be forwarded to Israel by the head of the German secret service," Bernd Schmidbauer, who is expected to meet the two Lebanese today," it said.

Bernd Schmidbauer, who is expected to meet the two Lebanese today," it said.

## Sudan rebels want \$50m to free Red Cross plane

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A former rebel leader wants \$50 million to release a Red Cross plane that landed in southern Sudan, allegedly carrying guerrillas and ammunition, a Sudanese newspaper reported Sunday.

The Arabic daily Akhbar Al Yom said the leader, Kerbino Kwanyih, wants the money for families of his fighters killed in action in the south.

There was no way to independently verify the report. The plane owned by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, landed Nov. 1 in the Bahr Al Ghazal region controlled by Mr. Kwanyih's forces and has been held since.

It carried a Canadian pilot, his Kenyan assistant and an Australian nurse as well as five men that Kwanyih and the Sudanese government say are members of John Garang's Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA).

The ICRC says that both the government and the rebel allies knew the plane was ferrying fighters who had received medical treatment. It denies there were weapons on board.

The Sudanese government has banned all ICRC flights, and a senior ICRC official has held talks with Sudanese officials to resolve the situation.

Mr. Kwanyih's soldiers fought alongside Colonel Garang's SPLA until last April, when he signed a peace agreement with the government.

The government has been trying for 13 years to put down the southern insurrection, which seeks autonomy for the region's Christians and animists from the Muslim north. More than one million people have died from fighting or famine, and thousands are displaced.

The newspaper said Mr. Kwanyih believed that "the Red Cross had supported Garang's forces and, accordingly, should be held responsible" for deaths among his followers.

The newspaper said Mr. Kwanyih also wanted the ICRC to provide him with first-aid kits and ambulances to care for his wounded, and equipment to communicate with ICRC planes. Col. Garang apparently has such equipment.

The paper said the ICRC was given a deadline to respond, but it was not disclosed.

Another Sudanese newspaper said on Sunday government troops fought off a rebel attack in the east of the country, killing at least two rebels for no casualties on the government side.

The rebel force had come into Sudan from Eritrea, where the Sudanese opposition in exile has military bases, the newspaper Al Ingaz Al Watani said.

## Number of Gazans entering Israel dips

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Some 12,000 Palestinian workers entered Israel for their jobs on Sunday, a decrease from last week despite Israel's announcement it had upped the number of entry permits, a security official said.

Saeed Ajiz, head of Palestinian security in north Gaza, where the main crossing into Israel is located, told AFP that 12,000 workers entered Israel Sunday morning along with 124 Palestinian cargo trucks.

"The number of workers is down by 2,000 from last Thursday," he said, without explaining the drop in the workers entering.

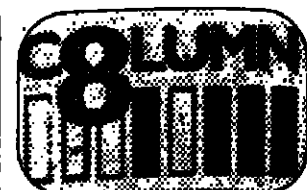
Israel announced Saturday it would allow an additional 15,000 workers into Israel from the West Bank and Gaza, bringing the total to around 50,000, the same number as before a tightened closure on the territories

imposed in October. There are frequently discrepancies between announced increases in the number of permits and the number of workers who actually enter.

Palestinians charge that Israeli authorities do not actually issue the announced number of permits, while Israel says Palestinian workers fail to come forward to receive their permits.

According to a military spokesman, 7,000 additional permits were given to workers in the Gaza Strip and 8,000 to West Bank workers, valid from Sunday at 4 a.m. (0200 GMT).

Israel imposed a closure on the territories in February following a series of bloody anti-Jewish bombings, then progressively eased it until it clamped down again after September's explosion of Israeli-Palestinian clashes across the West Bank and Gaza.



## Trove of pearls found in Bahrain

MANAMA (AFP) — A treasure trove of 364 pearls dating back to the 14th or 15th century has been found by French archaeologists excavating in Bahrain, the director of the Bahrain museum said Sunday. The white and yellow pearls were found at Qalat Al Bahrain, around five kilometres north of the capital Manama and near the waters of the Gulf, said museum Director Nayla Al Khalifa. Ms. Khalifa, who was quoted by the official Gulf News Agency, gave no estimate for the value of the pearls, which will be cleaned before being displayed in the museum. The French team was led by Pierre Lombard from the National Centre for Scientific Research. At the same site, the team in April last year found around 20 baked-clay tablets which bore cuneiform characters in Akkadian, the most widely used language in the Middle East in the second millennium before Christ.

## Passengers push plane in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — Passengers on a Romanian aircraft, fed up after a five-hour delay at Cairo airport, got out and tried to push the plane into position for takeoff on Sunday, airport sources said. The British-made BAC plane landed at dawn on one of the runways at Cairo airport, the sources said. The 43 passengers boarded the plane but the pilot was unable to execute the manoeuvres required to position it for takeoff. The aircraft was not equipped with a hook that would have enabled a truck to pull it, and the airport authorities said they could not help the pilot.

After five hours of negotiations between the pilot and the authorities, passengers got out and tried to push the plane, the sources said. They made several futile attempts before the Romanian airline official at the airport decided to put up them up at a hotel while waiting for the problem to be resolved. The plane was originally scheduled to take off for Bucharest at 1:40 a.m. (2340 GMT Saturday).

Israeli authorities are conducting their own investigation, but both Israeli and Palestinian security are sharing information on the incident, he said.

Israeli security services have been on alert for the past few weeks for possible suicide attacks by Hamas or the small Islamic Jihad movement, which has vowed to avenge the 1995 assassination of its leader by suspected Israeli agents.

Four suicide attacks, claimed by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, killed 58 people in Israel in February and March.

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